California GARDEN

March/April 2009 Volume 100 No 2 $4.00

Vegetables

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

California Garden Retrospective: 1929–1948

Demystifying Flower Shows

Quail Botanical Gardens' 13th Annual Herb Festival, Spring Plant Sale, and Tomatomania®

March 21 and 22, 9 AM – 5 PM

- Featuring Jane Taylor, nationally known for her work with children's gardens and herbs, speaking on "Creating Magical Spaces" (Saturday) and "Fun Oohh - Aahh Plants!!" (Sunday) plus many other speakers
- Children's Activities Saturday 11 AM - 2 PM
- Ongoing music and delicious food

EcoDesign Fair Premiers in the Gardens

New this year, the EcoDesign Fair brings together local designers creating eco-friendly products that showcase home decor, furnishings, accessories, clothing, and jewelry.

Jolee Pins

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS

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Photo: Rachel Cobb

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ADVERTISING
Kay Harry

AFFILIATE LISTING
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RENEWALS
Lisa Prindle
membership@sdfloral.org

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California GARDEN

THE MAGAZINE FOR HANDS-ON GARDENERS AND FLORAL DESIGNERS

March/April 2009, Volume 100, Number 2

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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairperson, please contact *California Garden* if you'd like the magazine sold at your show.

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President's Letter

Trees. So familiar and so easy to take for granted. However, a combination of climate change and pests are killing trees at a staggering rate. In recent years, more than 10,000 oak trees in San Diego County have died from the infestation of an opportunistic beetle that thrives in drought conditions. California has lost many acres of trees to the unusually destructive forest fires of the past few years. Nationwide, a report documented the death of 12.2 million acres of trees from 1997 to 2003, four times the normal rate of tree mortality.

This news is particularly distressing for those of us who appreciate trees for their beauty and know their value in supporting watersheds, stabilizing soils, producing edibles and medicines, cleaning the air of pollutants and, in urban areas, cooling the reflected heat of city hardscape.

The Floral Association has a proud history of planting and protecting trees. In 1913-14, the Association helped mount a successful campaign to protect the unique *Pinus torreyana* by enlarging Torrey Pines Park. Floral also led an effort to save a grove of old oaks by convincing the County to establish the El Monte County Park near Lakeside.

Fast-forwarding to today, the Floral Association participates in the Penny Pines program. Despite the name, the program supports National Forest Service planting of all types of trees, including native species. The national organization of garden clubs encourages participation in the Penny Pines program, but donations can be earmarked for a particular national forest. Floral will happily accept Penny Pines donations from our members to consolidate into the required multiples of $68 (which plants one acre of trees).

Meanwhile, is there room in your garden for one more tree?

Nancy Carol Carter

Nancy Carol Carter
President, 2008-09

California Garden Centennial Fund

SEQUOIA*	REDWOOD*	TORREY PINE*	SYCAMORE	LIVE OAK	OTHER AMOUNT
$ 1,000	$ 500	$ 250	$ 100	$ 50	$ _____

* Donors at these levels and higher will receive a limited edition, specially bound copy of the *California Garden* centennial book to be published by the Floral Association in 2009. This keepsake volume reprints a lively selection of articles from the past 100 years of the magazine and permanently records key events in San Diego Floral Association history. **Make checks payable to: SDFA (note "Centennial Fund").**

PHOTO: RACHEL COBB

Torrey Pine

MOVING?

Please let us know.

Help us keep membership costs down by informing us of your new address promptly. Fax it to us at 619-232-5762 or mail it to: SDFA, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684. Changes of address can also be submitted by email to *membership@sdfloral.org.*

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

PLANT PROPAGATION WORKSHOP

❑ **MARCH 19** **BASIC PLANT PROPAGATION**

Learn how to increase your plant stock for yourself, for friends and for donations to your garden club. We will discuss various aspects of vegetative propagation for both garden and indoor plants. The class will run about one and a half hours, and price includes materials for a container plant you will take home.

Cost: $15 for members; $20 for non-members;
Teacher: Dale Rekus (Master Gardener, SDFA, SDHS, Point Loma Garden Club, Rakes & Blades)

In This Issue

In Southern California, the March showers we hope we get will bring April and May flowers—just in time for a host of wonderful flower shows. In 'Demystifying Flower Shows' (pg. 18), learn the inside story about how flower shows work. It may even inspire you to enter one of this year's shows. You will get personal satisfaction of growing beautiful blossoms and the joy of sharing them with others. Who knows you may also win first place!

Many of us already grow edible plants, be it a single tomato plant to full on areas devoted to vegetable gardens, and possibly even an orchard. Vegetable gardening is undergoing a resurgence in interest for many reasons. Get started right with a few simple steps.

Enjoy the second part of our retrospective, celebrating 100 years of publication of *California Garden* magazine. Each issue this year we look back to a twenty-year period of our history, and this issue we tackle 1929-1948. It really is true that the more things change, the more they stay the same! We have been going green and conserving water for a century—isn't it nice that the rest of the world is catching up with us.

California Garden, *January 1940 cover image, Lily Pool and Tropical Gardens, Balboa Park.*

It's easy to register!

Just fill out this form (or a copy of it) and mail it to San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado, #105 San Diego, CA 92101-1684

PAYMENT FOR CLASSES MUST BE INCLUDED.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

March's class runs from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., and is held in Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. Coffee and sweets will be provided; bring your own lunch and clippers. Call Kathy Page for more information about San Diego Floral Association workshops at 619-422-2845. To register and pay, call 619-232-5762. Classes limited to 10 persons and must be prepaid.

You are invited to subscribe to

California GARDEN

Your subscription includes membership in SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION!

1-Year Subscription: $20
2-Year Subscription: $35
(Please add $6 per year for postage to foreign destinations.)

With your subscription, you'll receive the magazine, our newsletter, access to the San Diego Floral Association horticultural library and member discounts on events, trips and classes.

To sign up for your subscription today, please print (or copy) the form below and return it to: San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684.

NAME: _____

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Growing Lilacs

How to select the right lilac for San Diego

PHOTO: ALAN FORD

Lillac-Sensation

Descanso Gardens, north of Los Angeles in La Canada, specializes in growing lilacs that thrive in Southern California's warmer climates. This practice started in 1945 when the founder of Descanso Gardens, E. Manchester Boddy, hired UCLA plant biologist Walter Lammerts to develop a plant-breeding program at Descanso. The first lilac was developed in 1953 and was called 'Lavender Lady'. After Lammerts left Descanso Gardens, the lilac project fell to horticulturalist John Sobeck, who introduced 19 new lilacs by 1965.

Wayne Walker, the current Horticulturist at Descanso Gardens, recommends a nice variety of lilacs that will prosper in San Diego. These selections, he explains, don't need as many cool nights as other lilacs, and for this reason, they work well in San Diego.

'Lavender Lady' (*Syringa hyacinthiflora)*
This single lavender flower offers a faint fragrance that is not as strong as the lilacs back East. This was the first lilac developed by Lammerts in 1953.

'Angel White' (*S. hyacinphiflora*)
Developed in 1971, this fragrant cultivar of 'Lavender Lady' offers a single white flower.

'California Rose' (*S. hyacinphiflora*)
Also a cultivar of 'Lavender Lady', the fragrant 'California Rose' was developed in 1966 and offers single pinkish flower.

These three lilacs as well as others can be found at many nurseries throughout San Diego. Additionally, every spring Descanso Gardens has a large flower sale where lilacs and blooms are available for sale. For dates and times of the Descanso spring lilac sale, please contact the gardens at 819-949-4290. *–Alyssa Holderbein*

Meet the Masters 2009

The Village Garden Club of La Jolla

presents

Preston Bailey

in his premiere West Coast public appearance

This internationally celebrated event planner and floral designer from New York has been featured in *Vogue, Vanity Fair, Town and Country,* and in the movie, *Sex in the City.* He has orchestrated spectacular events for Donald Trump, Joan Rivers, Oprah, and for weddings the world over.

Thursday, March 5th, 2009 1.30 p.m.

Sherwood Auditorium at MOCA, La Jolla

700 Prospect Street, La Jolla

Your reservation also includes Complimentary Valet Parking and a Reception immediately following next door at Wisteria Cottage

$55 for VGCLJ members $65 for non-members

$250 per person includes Private Cocktail Reception with the speaker in a La Jolla home 6.30 p.m. March 4th and one ticket to the event

Tax deductible proceeds from this event will benefit VGCLJ's Schoolyard Gardening Grant Program

Your check is your reservation. Checks should be made out to VGCLJ and mailed to: The Village Garden Club of La Jolla, 6366 Cardeno Drive, La Jolla, California 92037 For further information, please call 858-454-7467

Daytrip for *Lilacs*

Every spring people from all over Southern California travel to Julian, California to see lilacs in bloom, and lilac grower Woody Barnes is there every year to see the migration.

Barnes was born in Julian, the same town as his mother, and has lived there ever since. In 1924 his family started raising lilacs. The tradition began at the wedding of his parents, who received their first lilac plant as a wedding gift. Now Barnes raises lilacs to sell commercially.

Traditionally, lilacs need very cool nights, almost a frost, to bloom and prosper. The climate in Southern California is too warm for the "old fashioned" lilacs that are popular on the East coast. Julian, however, is one of the very few places in San Diego that has the right climate for these lilacs, thanks to chilly mountain temperatures in winter and spring. The annual lilac bloom attracts people from all over Southern California to load up their cars and make an afternoon trip out to Julian to see them.

Lilacs are only in bloom for two or three weeks out of the year. This makes the beautiful flower even more elusive for the people of San Diego. Barnes warns that it is hard to predict when the lilacs are going to bloom. However, by studying the blooming patterns of the last 20 years, he guesses that the best day to try and see them this year would be April 15. But, he cautions that it is only a guess. If you are considering a trip out to Julian to view the flowers, try first calling the Julian Chamber of Commerce at 760-765-1857. They are very helpful and will be able to tell you if the lilacs are blooming.

After deciding on a day to go he suggests driving through town to see who is growing lilacs. There are people with lilac plants in their yards all over town and on weekends during blooming season people sell bushels on the roadside.

Lilac enthusiasts can also join the International Lilac Society. It is a small club, only about 450 people who meet once a year at the annual convention.

Membership is $25 a year. For more information, please visit their website at *www.internationallilacsociety.org.*

–Alyssa Holderbein

PHOTO: ALAN FORD

Dig in!

Orchids

Ancient to Modern Appeal

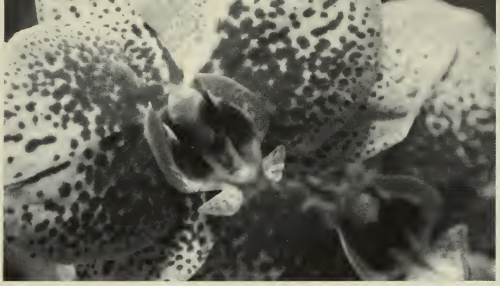

PHOTO RACHEL COBB

No one knows who cultivated the first orchid or who brought it in from the wild for pleasure or medicine. The Chinese word for orchid, *lan*, appeared in ancient herbals over 4,000 years ago. Confucius commented on their delightful fragrance. Theophrastus, the Greek "Father of Botany," mentions the genus *Orchis* in his *Enquiry into Plants* around 300 B.C. The Aztecs by that time had already been using the wonderful flavor of vanilla for centuries, thus utilizing the seed pod of this lovely orchid.

What stirs people's passion for these exotic blossoms? Orchid flowers have a kaleidoscope of colors and fragrances. They can smell sweet and enticing or like dead chickens. Their shapes differ from other flowers. There are orchid slippers, buckets and helmets, which help their insect pollinators or fool them. They inhabit wet and dry areas and live in high and low altitudes. The flowers may be large as a plate or so small you need a lens to see them. They have been prized worldwide for their beauty and eccentricities.

From the late 1700s to the present, orchids have been collected from all continents except Antarctica. In the late 1960s and '70s, orchids began to be grown as a more common plant in nurseries, no longer just for the rich and famous to tend in personal greenhouses. Hybrids abound through careful selection and modern technology. During the last thirty years the plants have been getting better and more diverse with longer lasting flowers. Some blooms last up to two months or more. Orchids have become one of the most popular pot plants in the world. Twenty-five percent of all pot plants in the U.S. are orchids.

Whether you are addicted to orchids or just enjoy the flowers of *Cattleyas*, *Cymbidiums*, *Oncidiums* (Dancing Ladies), *Paphiopedilums* (Lady Slippers), *Phalaenopsis* (Moth Orchids), or any other species or hybrids, you will have a chance to see and/or purchase some very unusual plants. The San Diego County Orchid Society Show "Around the World with Orchids" at Scottish Rite Temple in Mission Valley is March 13-15. General admission is $6. Find out more at *www.sdorchids.com*. For fall blooming specimens the International Orchid Fair at Quail Gardens will be in October. *–Charley Fouquette*

Garden to Grand

Three-step guide to arranging items you've grown

Here is the simple three-step arrangement you can make with your own foliage and flowers. Just look outside, you have more choices than you think. In a pinch, go to a local vendor and buy a blooming plant such as a chrysanthemum; use no more than half of the flowers and plant the rest for blooms next season.

Choose a low vase or even a kitchen bowl from one inch to three inches deep and about seven to eight inches across. Gather up scissors or a sharp pocket knife, a pin holder, floral foam or marbles to hold the materials in place and a basket or box for carrying your greenery.

You're designing a small table-top arrangement about nine inches high and twelve to sixteen inches wide. Review the next part completely before beginning your arrangement.

Go out to your garden and select your flowers and foliage. Choose material that can tolerate harvesting and is free of brown spots or insect damage. You'll want to cut off nine inches. Find ones that are compatible in scale and color, and provide variety in form and texture. The more arrangements you create, the better you will become at selecting and combining flowers and foliage.

Step One: Choose some flowers or unusual foliage to be the center of interest. You should have enough of this material to form a small bouquet that is about nine inches high and about six inches in diameter. Using your holder, place your center-of-interest flowers or foliage in the middle of your container.

Step Two: Select two different plant materials (one flower and one foliage) that are compatible with your center-of-interest. Cut about five bunches of each to about six inch lengths. Place them below and around your center-of-interest in alternating bunches completely around the inside edge of your container. Let some cover part of the edge of the container.

Step Three: Stand back a few feet and look at your creation. It should look balanced and centered in the container with no large holes or gaps among the flowers or foliage. Turn it around and look from all angles, as this design is intended to be viewed from all sides. Add a few more flowers or foliage to rectify any problems, fill the container to within one-half inch of the top with fresh tepid water and place it on your table. Then enjoy it, and add fresh water in a few days.

I would love to hear about favorite flowers or foliage that you have used in home arrangements via my email at *onlujan@san.rr.com*. *–Barbara P. Clark*

Growing for Arrangements

Plan your garden with floral designs in mind

If you create your own floral arrangements with foliage from your yard you will be amazed at how long they last. This material is garden fresh, not picked weeks before and sent by air to a local destination; just one reward for growing flowers and foliage for arrangements.

Enjoy the satisfaction and increased creativity that comes from creating something attractive from materials at-hand. Searching to decorate my dining table, I found beautiful bright green basil leaves, perfect, with no wormholes or brown tips. Delicate white flower stocks stood erect, needing to be picked to prevent the plant from going to seed. I then looked for foliage to provide color harmony, proper scale and variety in form. I settled on lamb's ear (*Stachys*), gray-leaf trailing dichondra, *Euphorbia* 'Diamond Frost' and an immature tiny white hydrangea flower. All were arranged in a square, clear-class container filled with glass marbles.

While this article suggests a few garden plants that I've found successful in arrangements, thousands of possibilities grow in our San Diego climate. Consider selecting plants suitable for the style and color of your interior décor and emphasize these in your garden. My townhome is furnished casually with Scandinavian-style teak wood furniture. I prefer earth tones with accents of orange, red, yellow, black and beige, and grow plants with these colors in my garden with accents of white. The palette is supplemented by many shades of green with indoor plants and those visible from the windows.

Some of my favorite foliage plants are: canna, pittosporum, croton (*Codiaeum*), nandina—also has red berries for the holidays—split-leaf philodendron (*Monstera deliciosa*) and calla (*Zantedeschia*). For foliage and flowers, coleus, dusty miller, sweet potato vine, cordyline, *Cyperus papyrus* (trim to any size), palm (trim to size), dwarf myrtle, juniper, eucalyptus, spider plant (*Chlorophytum*), rex begonia and succulents look amazing used alone or with a single compatible leaf or flower.

Some flowers I've successfully grown and arranged are: bird of paradise (*Strelitzia regina*), freesia, geum, statice (*Limoniuim*)—both fresh and dried—Peurvian lily (*Alstroemeria*), amaryllis, Lily-of-the-Nile (*Agapanthus* 'Peter Pan'), gomphrena (fresh and dried), cane-type begonia and chrysanthemum.

My number one favorite for ease of growing, flowers and foliage is *Euphorbia* 'Diamond Frost'. It resembles baby's breath (*Gypsophila*), blooms continually, is perennial in much of San Diego and has no real pest problems. It is used primarily as filler, but is attractive when used alone. Go with roses for a traditional display, or with gallardia or gerbera more something more contemporary. 'Diamond Frost' potted with strap-shaped red-leaf cordyline and red-blossom begonia has remained strikingly beautiful for eight months. It grows prolifically allowing me to use it frequently.

My favorite flower is the extremely versatile white hydrangea. Picked at its peak, it can be used as a single huge flower, broken up into florets or dried to a beautiful dusty green or pink. Tiny immature blossoms may also be used.

One holiday, I needed a particular color for my table that wasn't blooming in my garden. I found and purchased an inexpensive potted chrysanthemum with yellow and orange flowers. I used some of the flowers for the arrangement and planted the plant. Next year the yellow and orange chrysanthemums will be blooming in my garden for the holidays. For spring time arrangements consider seasonally blooming pastel and white chrysanthemums.

Those who prefer pastels and have traditional furnishings may prefer cottage garden plants for floral arranging. Larkspur, stock, delphinium, aster, camellia and rose are only a few to consider. Select plants that compliment your interior colors. *–Barbara P. Clark*

Money Back

Take advantage of San Diego County Water Authority Rebates

Unfortunately, a dry 2009 continues to worry water officials as we face alarmingly low water stores and almost-certain regional water rationing on the horizon. This is why it is important to take proactive action on conserving water. One way to do this with your landscape is to take advantage of the San Diego County Water Authority's 20 gallon challenge-related outdoor rebates (*www.20gallonchallenge.com/programs_residential.html*). Each of the rebate programs outlined below can save you money and help you feel better about doing your part to conserve water.

Single-Family Landscape Surveys: If you're looking to reduce your outdoor water usage, you may want to call and get a free survey of your system. The surveyor will point out leaks, assess your irrigation system's efficiency, help you come up with a watering schedule appropriate to your landscape and recommend the proper water conserving devices.

Synthetic Turf Rebate: If you've decided to go artificial, SDCWA can offer a rebate of up to 50 cents per square foot.

Single-Family Weather-Based Irrigation Controller Rebates: Smart controllers can adapt your water usage depending on weather, soil type and plants, and usually takes a professional to install. Rebates of at least $230 (and up to $500 in some districts) can help lessen the burden.

Single-Family Rotating Nozzle Rebates: Upgrading your sprinkler nozzles? SoCal's Water$mart program can offer up to $4 per rotating nozzle. *–Amy R. Wood*

Floral Design Trends

April General Meeting featuring Elizabeth Seiji, AFID

On April 21, the San Diego Floral Association will host Elizabeth Seiji. She will be speaking on Floral Design Trends. Elizabeth is the proprietor of Edelweiss Flower Boutique, Santa Monica, California (*www.edelweissflowers.com*). Elizabeth Seiji is a self-trained floral designer and an AIFD certified member since 1998. She has served on the AIFD National Board and AIFD Southwest Regional Board. She has also been a featured guest speaker at "Bouquets to Art" in San Francisco. She will present a floral design demonstration using her exceptional creativity, paired with elements of good design.

Elizabeth is a sought after designer who can create arrangements from "traditional" to the "L.A. look." Her goal is to have clients walk away with a floral arrangement that expresses the emotion that the client wants to convey. Her favorite look is contemporary with a twist. Her personal floral preference is tropical flowers.

As a professional floral designer she concentrates on what works for the business florist as well as educating her clients to keep them current. With twenty years as a full service florist herself, she teaches trends and techniques to florists showing them how to be better designers. This will be the first presentation Elizabeth Seiji has given in San Diego.

Come hear Elizabeth Seiji speak about Floral Design Trends.

This should be an intriguing presentation, so please join us on April 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego CA. The meeting is free for members, with a $15 fee for non-members. Prior to the meeting an optional catered dinner is available by paid reservation at a cost of $12 for SDFA members, meeting and dinner is $30 for non-members. Your reservation must be made prior to Monday, February 13. For more information about the event, please call 619-232-5762. —*Connie Brown*

MP Rotator Sprinklers

Saving water with new technology

The MP Rotator is a revolutionary sprinkler that should replace the pop-up spray and shrub spray heads in our landscape. They deliver water in a slow, efficient, uniform, multi-trajectory rotating stream pattern. This would greatly reduce water loss caused by spray heads that create wind blown fogging or misting and a quick surface water runoff.

The MP stands for matched precipitation. These heads are designed so that as the arc or the radius of the head is adjusted, the flow rate automatically adjusts and the fine streams continue to deliver uniform coverage.

The rotating streams also deliver water very slowly compared to a spray head. For example, a 90-degree, 15-foot spray head might spray 8 gallons of water in 10 minutes. An MP rotator covering the same area would deliver about 2 gallons in 10 minutes. So if you ran the system for 30 minutes you would be saving water and the landscape might even be watered more. Think of it is as a sprinkler drip system.

This slow water delivery is great for several reasons. It allows for the water to percolate into the soil. This is especially important for heavy soils and on slopes, where runoff is generally a problem. This helps prevent erosion. Another benefit is that the slow delivery keeps the pressure high. You can cover more area by having more heads for each valve, so a new irrigation system could use fewer valves and controller stations. If you have an existing spray system that has pressure problems, retrofitting it with MP rotators would probably solve the problem.

The price of these heads compared to other spray heads is a little high, about $7–$9 each, but The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is so impressed with their water saving ability that they are offering a $4 rebate per each sprinkler. (Note: MP Rotator is a trademark of hunter irrigation products. Rainbird has similar nozzles called MPR "matched precipitation rate" Rotors. The Rebate is good for either brand.)

Go to *www.bewaterwise.com* or call 888-376-3314 for more information.

Water rationing is definitely on the horizon. Our seasonal rains, at best, are scant though we always appreciate increased rainfall when it happens. Saving water is always important in creating our arid oasis. If you are putting in a new irrigation system, or want to modernize your old system to be more efficient and water saving, please check out this new sprinkler technology. –*John Noble*

Gardening is like painting,
our yards are our canvas.
Nature is our teacher
and inspiration.
We use our creativity
and instinct
to achieve
landscape art.

The Materials are
Rocks and Soil
Wildflowers, Weeds
Leaves and Trees

Our Patrons are
Lizards, Butterflies,
Hummingbirds, the
Children of Today,
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Veggies

PHOTO: RACHEL COBB

Vegetables: The New Revolution

How-to grow the food you eat

By Lucy Warren

Backyard vegetable garden

While vegetables have always been part of a gardener's palette, recently there has been a resurgence of interest in these wonderful plants. What's "new" and "hot" comes from a long agricultural and gardening tradition. After all, once they settled down from hunting and gathering, people in ancient cultures grew vegetables for nutrition and medicinal purposes. Our pioneer forefathers depended on their vegetable plots for their sustenance. Our mothers tried to force us to eat them, as have mothers from time immemorial. Our parents and grandparents joined in a movement akin to the war effort in the 1940s called "Victory Gardens" growing their own vegetables at home to keep our populace fed and to free up precious industrial resources for the war effort. Excess produce was canned and lasted through long winters when fresh vegetables were unavailable.

Since that time we have undergone great changes in industry and technology, our population has become more and more urban. Rapid and relatively inexpensive means of transportation have promoted the industrialization of fruit and vegetable growing. Production has now spread beyond our borders to regions of opposing climates below the equator, making fresh summer fruits and vegetables available in winter.

However, the nutritional and flavor cost of such exotic production has been high. Mass production has fostered varieties that are developed to withstand the rigors of shipping, to be the earliest (and most valuable) in the market, rather than the optimization of taste and succulence. It has led to monocultures and reduction of variety. It has forced smaller growers out of business.

Yet, even as that vast pendulum has swung to big business, an opposing force has been quietly gathering momentum. Health scares from contaminated foods have led to distrust of international production. Interest in growing and eating locally grown vegetables has actually been stimulated by economic forces such as increasing consumer prices resulting from worldwide increases in the price of oil and the collapse of financial institutions and increasing home foreclosures. As people look to ways to cut expenses, growing their own food is more and more attractive and is considered part of the "greening" of our environment.

The Slow Food movement encourages people to go to participating restaurants to enjoy and appreciate the flavors and benefits of more natural local small-scale production. Farmers' markets have sprung up throughout the country, where local produce—affirmed to be grown organically—is transported only short distances and sold fresh picked from the farm. Community gardens where individuals can grow their own plants, usually a predominance of vegetables, have waiting lists of people interested in participating.

In a survey conducted annually by Garden Writers of America, for the past three years more and more people have indicated that they will be spending money to buy seeds or plants of fruits and vegetables for their gardens, reaching a current level of 39 percent. For the many of us who have enjoyed our own fresh fruits and vegetables for years, our only surprise is that it has taken others so long to catch on.

Southern California is the perfect place to encourage and support this trend. Our year-round growing climate enables people to enjoy a wide variety of vegetables over all seasons. Not only is vegetable gardening easy, fun and relaxing yet invigorating, you also get to eat what you grow. If you haven't grown vegetables before, for the most part, just think of them as edible annuals—because many of them are. Plant, grow, harvest and get ready for the next season's crops.

For those who have never grown vegetables before, or who haven't had much experience this is a brief introduction with a few tips and suggestions that might improve your success as you join this exciting and delicious movement.

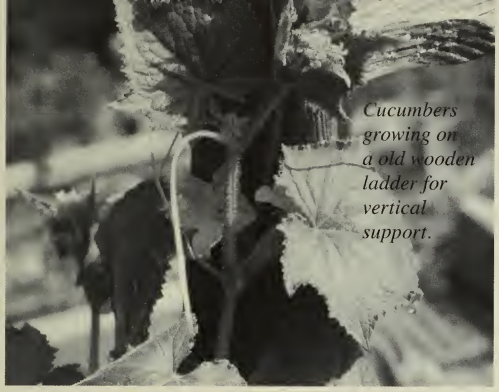
Getting Started

There is no size or positioning limit for vegetable gardens. They can be a single container, a portion—or all—of your yard, a community garden or a huge ranch. Neither do vegetables have to be grown in a single "patch" all by themselves. Low mixed flower borders can include beautiful colored lettuces, stunningly colorful winter chard or ornamental cabbages. At the back of a yard or garden, a striking artichoke plant provides both volume and delicious buds.

Start small. Overeager beginners often want to try to grow everything and overplant. Take a slow gardening approach, selecting a few things at a time so you gain experience in determining how much time you are willing to devote to weeding, controlling pests and watering. At least at first, grow only what you really love to eat. Select crops that will produce the maximum amount of food for the space you have available.

Put your garden (even if it is just single container) in a spot that receives at least eight hours of full sunlight each day. Vegetables do not grow well in the shade. Find a place that is relatively level, well drained and close to a source of water.

Vegetables need loose rich soil, plenty of organic material and a full complement of minerals in order to grow well. You will literally reap the benefits of effort you put into preparing the soil and fertilizing and amending it as needed. Be judicious using fertilizers, particularly if you decide to use chemical amendments. Too much can burn your crops and be as bad or worse than too little. Just pay attention to the recommendations on the package. Many people now use compost to amend the soil and organic amendments, but the choice is completely up to you.



Cucumbers growing on a old wooden ladder for vertical support.

PHOTO RACHEL COBB

Planting Seasons

Most vegetables are put into one of two groups: vegetables that grow better in our cool season and those that grow better in the warm season. Planting the right seeds or plants at the right time will greatly enhance your success.

Cool season crops include a great diversity and variety in their edible parts from roots (beet, carrot, parsnip, radish, turnip, potato), stem (asparagus), leaf (cabbage, celery, lettuce, onion, spinach), immature flower parts (broccoli, cauliflower, globe artichoke) and fruit (fava beans, peas). When the temperature heats up, the genes of the plant signal that it is time to flower and produce seed, at which point the quality of the vegetable declines as it kicks into reproductive mode. Because the vegetative part of cool season vegetables is eaten, the food value is higher per pound and per square foot than that of warm season crops where the edible part of the plant is usually the fruit.

Some examples of warm season crops include cantaloupe, squash, tomato, watermelon, sweet corn, peppers, snap and lima beans. These crops need higher temperatures in order to grow and produce fruit.

Some crops will grow year-round here, such as carrots, radishes, beets, chard and turnips. Pay attention to the Fruit and Vegetable section of 'Now is the Time' (pg.26), where crops are recommended for each season.

Things to Plant in March and April

March is a transition month. Most people can't wait to begin planting their warm season crops such as artichokes, corn, green beans, tomatoes, cucumbers and winter squash. It is still usually cool enough to get in a last planting of favorites such as broccoli, head lettuce, cabbage and potatoes. However, hold off until April on the real heat lovers such as eggplant, okra, peppers and melons and sunflowers. In April, you can continue to plant loose leaf lettuce but it's too late for head lettuce to mature.

Tender Care

Unlike landscape plants, which can be left on their own for periods of time, your vegetables will need consistent care. Particularly when they are beginning to sprout and take hold, they must not completely dry out or they will quickly croak. At the same time, if they are given too much water, the roots will not be able to get enough air and they will rot. The rule of thumb is that the soil should be moist but not wet. If your vegetables go through cycles of being too wet then drying out completely, their growth will be stunted and they will not bear well.

Keep a close eye on the vegetable plants for pests and diseases. A number of insects are attracted to your delicious vegetable plants. Likewise there are numerous plant diseases which can affect their growth and ability to mature. Be on the lookout for eaten leaves, discolorations and misshapen growth. Often if it is an insect you can locate and squash the offender, but be careful that you are not wiping out beneficial insects.

Optimize plant growth by taking out weeds that compete for nutritional resources. In your small, beginning plot, this should relatively easy. As you go out to check on the plants, pull out anything that you didn't plant yourself. Catching the weeds when they are young, a few at a time, greatly eases your overall gardening chores.

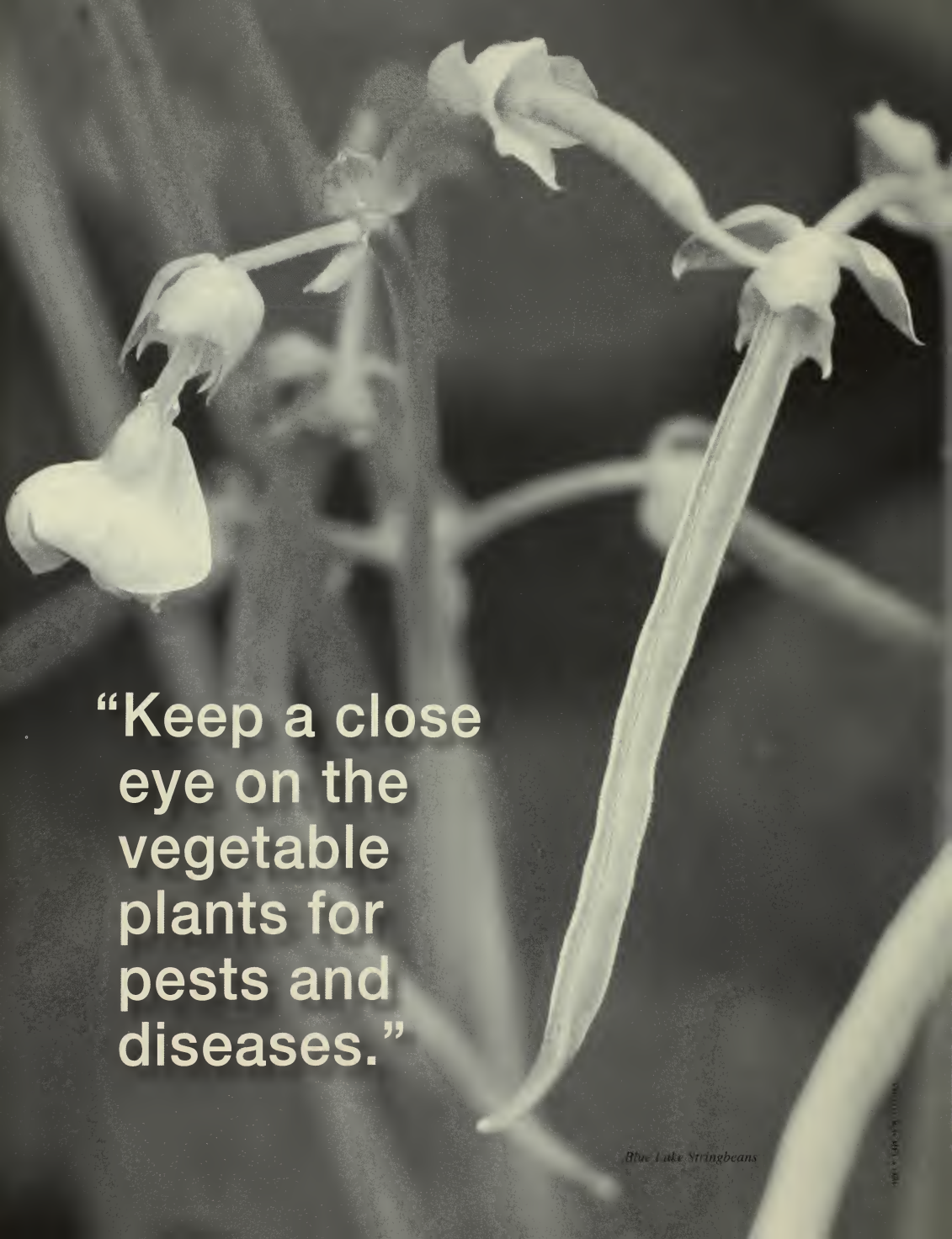
Resources

There are many books written on gardening, organic gardening and fruit and vegetable gardening that are very good that work for 95 percent of the country, but we suggest that you try to find and use resources written by and for Southern Californians. Our seasons and weather conditions are different from most of the rest of the country; we can grow different crops easily, such as artichokes and sub-tropical fruit trees. On the other hand, many crops which require freezing weather for production will not thrive here. Pat Welsh's *Southern California Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide* is an excellent resource for both beginning and experienced gardeners. If pests are getting you down or you can't figure out what they are, go to the University of California website for the best and most up to date information (*www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG*).

For specific questions, call the UCCE Master Gardener hotline at 858-694-2860.

Cover: Early summer squash bloom.
Photo: Rachel Cobb

Back to Our Roots
Mission Hills Garden Club
Walk
Saturday
May 9
10-4
Tickets $20 presale, $25 day of event- on sale April 1 at MH Nursery, Walter Anderson's, Cedros Gardens or paypal: www.missionhills gardenclub.org


"Keep a close eye on the vegetable plants for pests and diseases."
Blue Lake Stringbeans

California Garden Restrospective

Looking back at *California Garden*: 1929-1948

By Thea Gurns and Lucy Warren

The years between 1929 and 1948 wrenched the world in adversity, and the difficulties ensnared *California Garden* as the publication scrapped to survive. Staff struggled to maintain its unbroken production schedule, and the magazine, until then issued monthly, became a quarterly. Page count shrunk from a customary fifteen to eight pages.

Advertisement fees were crucial to the magazine's finances and a loyal group of businesses like San Diego Consolidated Gas and Electric, Harris Seed Co. and Kate O. Sessions Nursery remained prominent. A newcomer, Walter Andersen, Sr., arrived in town and began advertising his new nursery.

During the depression, the pages of the *Garden* emphasized practical gardening techniques. Backyard gardens became key. In April 1931, the magazine printed an article by Lillian M. Gilbreth that urged that the unemployed be put to work planting trees along highways and streets, cleaning up suitable property for garden plots and setting out shrubs and perennials. To feed the hungry, she wanted "small home gardens where the food budget is small."

SDFA-hosted flower shows were a welcome and low-cost diversion. Nominal entrance fees helped pay for *California Garden's* expenses, and the exhibits were chronicled in the magazine. By this time, the Flower Association was no longer the lone Southern California garden club. In 1936, Mrs. A. W. Darling announced the fifteenth annual Chula Vista fall flower show and in June 1938 Kate Sessions summarized her visits to flower shows in La Jolla, Coronado and Rancho Santa Fe.

Earlier *California Garden* personalities, like A.D. Robinson, were replaced by new writers and editors. Silas B. Osborne served the longest stretch as editor, 1930-1937, and again from 1944 to 1945. The distinguished landscape designer Roland S. Hoyt, responsible for both Presidio Park and Mission Bay Parks, led the masthead from 1939 to 1943. Alfred C. Hottes, former editor of *Better Homes and Gardens*, did a turn as editor 1945 to 1946. Ada Perry, a 50-year contributor to the magazine, pitched in to lead 1947 to 1948. Helen Witham Chamlee, botanist with the San Diego Museum of Natural History, brightened the pages for twenty years.

San Diego shown brightly in 1935 when the city celebrated a second exposition, the California-Pacific Exposition. Buildings already in place in Balboa Park (some renamed) were joined by those newly-constructed for the event. When the expo opened in May of 1935, *California Garden* profiled fair attractions that showcased the area's equable climate. Alcazar garden was based on the famous original in Seville and contained "10,000 pansies of every color." Another famous garden in Spain, Rondo, was the model for Casa del Rey Moro and its garden.

Articles during World War II encouraged garden upkeep for its effect on morale, reported that vegetable and fruit shows had raised funds for Army-Navy Benefit and chronicled how an irreplaceable orchid collection from England under siege in the blitz had found refuge here. During the war, the U.S. Navy took over Balboa Park and converted buildings and gardens to meet the medical and rehabilitation needs of wartime sailors and marines. To those readers worried about the effect of "Balboa Park in Wartime," the author assured "the sun still shines" and there would be "no permanent scar tissue." Perry wrote a follow-up article in summer 1948 as the park was being returned to San Diegans. "Flowers bloom again in the gardens for the first time in seven and one-half years."

Post-Depression, post-war, staffers could afford to take a breath and look around. The Autumn 1946 *Garden* asked its readers for specific back numbers to replace missing copies and fill out a complete collection of issues to put in Floral's safekeeping, issues that are still treasured today.

Ads—like this one from Mission Hills Nursery—helped support California Garden *through the lean years.*

TIMELINE

1929: Stock Market prices collapse, San Diego Presidio Park opens
1935: California-Pacific Exposition opens in Balboa Park
1939: Germany invades Poland, War breaks out in Europe
1941: Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, Manhattan Project begins
1942: US Navy acquires Rancho Santa Margarita's 126,000 acres for Camp Pendleton Marine base
1945: World War II ends, Microwave oven invented

THEN • NOW

1939 - Miss Sessions breaks ground for horticultural building at San Francisco Exposition site.

In the early '30s, *California Garden* underwent a change in print size and form. In Volume 23, Editor Silas B. Osborn observed, "For nearly a quarter of a century the *California Garden* has served as an authentic guide to the garden lovers of California." He announced, "With the presentation to our subscribers of the November issue a new era in the work of the *California Garden* is commenced." He outlined how the magazine would present information more graphically, and said, "To our many loyal friends whose memory of past years may dictate a pang of regret at the passing of our traditional style, may we say that this publication like the living plants that are discussed in its columns must grow and change, for without growth all living things perish."

Readers of that November 1933 issue could see the change at once. The magazine's aesthetic transformed to the art moderne values of a succeeding age. Cover art now changed with each issue, and cover design featured a black-and-white photograph and an index of the three lead articles in the issue. The size of the magazine grew from 5" x 8" to 8 ½" x 11". Layout became clearer, and paper texture was silkier.

The paper stock itself became a story. Quality and color varied in the Depression and the war engendered shortages. Under the rationing system, the *Garden* frequently scrambled to find enough paper to print an issue. Floral's publication was not on the list of most-crucial uses. Issues might be delayed, but always the intrepid staff saw the magazine printed and distributed.

After the soigné photographs of earlier years, art largely disappeared from *Garden* covers, which now displayed a plain table of contents simply framed. A photograph or drawing might show up inside the pages, although ads provided the main flash through change of type.

In 2007, to celebrate the SDFA centennial and with the aid of a generous benefactor, color was added to the magazine, bringing it to a new era. John Hogan was hired and played the principle role in redesigning the publication. Once centennial funds were spent, editorship again became voluntary, but it was clearly evident that professional art direction was critical. Rachel Cobb, professional graphic artist and photographer for major national publications, was hired. She is an avid plants person and has greatly refined the overall look of the magazine since 2008.

Quality is in the details and they now abound. For 2009, Rachel has added shading to the cover title, giving the letters a chiseled look. She created the centennial logo, as well. Fine details of gently patterned backgrounds and brilliant photos of featured plants are only a few of her refinements. The changes are often subtle and gradual, but evident if you look closely at past issues.

Apart from design, SDFA continues to rely on volunteer writers and editors to accomplish its mission. Behind the scenes, Managing Editor, Amy R. Wood (who also has a background in magazine publication) has made many suggestions that have better organized and broadened the appeal of the publication. Representing a new generation of gardeners, she has brought life and renewed interest to topics, refreshing the content of the magazine.

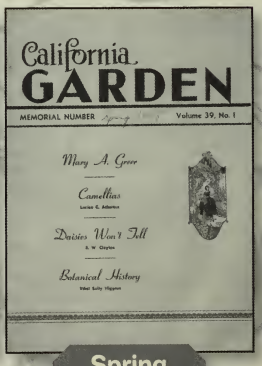
For story ideas, we are reaching out into the community, featuring articles on the interests of our treasured affiliates. Columns such as this one celebrate major landmarks in our horticultural community with great respect for the past.

We constantly examine costs, new papers—everything we can to deliver the best quality magazine. You can participate by promoting the magazine to people you know, maybe even buying gift subscriptions and sharing the value of this tremendous community resource.

May 1936

January 1939

January 1940



Spring 1948

Reviews

All of the books reviewed in *California Garden* are part of the San Diego Floral Association Library collection (located in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA). Come, browse—and if you're a SDFA member—check them out!

Clematis for Small Spaces

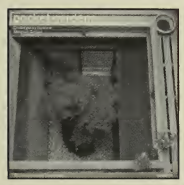
By Raymond J. Evison
Timber Press
$35 (Hardcover); 272 pages

Grow just three varieties of potted clematis for bloom from March to December! It's possible, according to this "know-all, tell-all" book, full of beautiful photos and a wealth of information. The characteristics of the various species that make up this member of the ranunculus family are included in the author's fifteen-chapter discussion of its development, selection, care and propagation.

The details of plant care and selection of seasonal varieties also emphasize pruning techniques, as some species bloom on new growth and some on old. The data for selecting three different varieties to plant in a small area or a pot is fully described. Choices vary from large climbing varieties to more compact forms and, thanks to the recent development of a new generation of cultivars, they can be combined with other plants for some striking effects through the seasons.

Long admired but frequently considered to be a daunting gardening challenge, clematis are now much more accessible thanks to this unusually fine reference volume. *–Don Millller*

Pocket Gardens – Contemporary Japanese Miniature Designs



By Michael Freeman with Noriko Sakai, Heidi Kingstone and Yukako Shibata
Rizzoli Publishing
$36 (Hardcover); 224 pages

With a small, spare format that echoes its subject, this intriguing book is large in its offerings of ways to arrange tiny enclosed areas with a minimum of plants for maximum effect. Most of the gardens shown are at Japanese urban residences, with only the narrowest of outdoor spaces. These areas are treated as three dimensional art pieces, composed of carefully selected plants, pruned and "accessorized" with small stones or large rocks and elegantly framed by window or door openings.

The houses' small scale is reflected in a variety of designs. In several, two story atriums are planted with bamboo or maple, with perhaps a stone water basin on view at the lower level and more foliage to be seen from the upper floors. Some narrow balconies are intended for viewing from the inside only, or landscaped with small plants and stones for texture and a sense of expanding space. Side gardens, only a foot or two deep also make use of texture and contrast as in one case where a small rock garden is planted in a large piece of lava rock. Pines, maples and bamboos are the trees of most choice, with bamboo doing double duty as screens as well.

One very modern home had small gardens at each corner, surrounded by tilted glass walls so the residents could enjoy the view of raindrops sliding down the surfaces. This house had all stainless steel floors, inside and out, for maximum reflection of light and plants. Stainless steel containers were also shown elsewhere; most striking was a large flat container atop a tall entry gate, planted with pampas grass.
–Marge Howard-Jones

Chili Madness: A Passionate Cookbook

By Jane Butel
Workman Publishing
$13 (Paperback); 204 pages

Double-Chili Deviled Eggs, Kahlua Mocha Fudge Pie, Buzzard's Breath Chili, Butternut Squash and Black Bean Chili—do these things all sound super delicious? If so, you are ready for a new collection of chili recipes, side-dishes, deserts and "good libations." The recipes are very clearly written with plenty of explanation about chilis, chipotle and other Mexican terminology for interested gringos. It is a good introduction for chili novices as well as experts looking for something new to do with some habaneros or jalapeños.

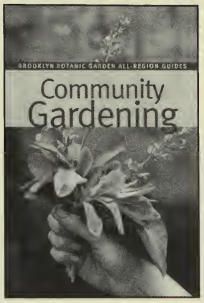
The author, Jane Butel, is the owner of the Pecos Valley Spice Company and has written more than 15 cookbooks. I keep going back to the recipe for 'Blue Corn Parfait Bread'—yum, yum! Happy cooking. *–Jeanette Dutton*

Community Gardening

By Ellen Kirby and Elizabeth Peters
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
$9 (Paperback); 120 pages

For some, gardening is a solitary pursuit. For others, gardening is something to be shared with others. For those

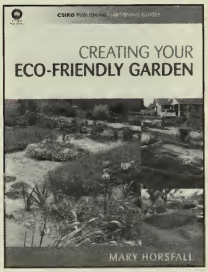
who enjoy gardening with others, and who wish to bring horticulture to a community via a larger outreach program, is this essential guide.



This short paperback is part profile of different kinds of communal gardens, and part guidebook for how to run a communal garden. In the first half of the book, the authors show a number of different kinds of groups coming together to garden. There are neighborhood gardens, youth gardens, food gardens and more. Readers learn how specific groups came together and thrived, groups such as Gardeners in Community Development from Dallas, Texas and Edible Schoolyard from Berkeley, California. Pictures of the groups bring them to life, and the profiles are inspiring.

The second half of the book concentrates on what to do once you have started your communal garden, covering everything from making the garden sustainable to understanding and testing for healthy soil.

People interested in using gardening as a way to bring their community together, or as a part of a greater outreach program, will learn a lot from this book, as will people looking for inspiring stories of people learning and growing through horticulture.
–Elizabeth V. Phillips



Creating Your Eco-Friendly Garden

By Mary Horsfall
Csiro Publishing
$35 (Paperback); 168 pages

Getting started on a new garden—or a full garden makeover—can be overwhelming. For that reason, it is important to turn to resources that can help flustered gardeners plan, prioritize, remind and even help in setting realistic expectations about what it will take to create a sustainable, environmentally-friendly garden—resources like this book.

Though written for Australians, *Creating Your Eco-Friendly Garden* offers a lot of good information for San Diegans, as Australia has a similar Mediterranean growing climate. The author, Horsfall approaches the question of eco-friendly gardens from a square one starting point, using her own experience with creating a country garden in Australia as a template. She assumes and encourages the reader to approach their garden—be it new or old—as a blank slate upon which they'll create their new, eco-friendly oasis. Advice is given with the understanding that each part of the puzzle will fit as part of a larger whole. (Though, advice can be successfully taken piecemeal.)

Horsfal begins by asking readers to evaluate their gardening space, including everything from soil health to climate. Next, biodiversity is addressed. The author recommends indigenous plants, and includes lists of plants that are indeed indigenous... to the land Down Under. Some of the plants recommended might not work for San Diego, however, the general advice of planting with bees, birds and other beneficials in mind is sound. She also recommends things not to plant, such as anything that promotes monocultures, like lawns.

The author encourages readers to create a plan for their gardens, which any local gardener should appreciate. For instance, how much of your garden should be planted with succulents or vegetables and how much should devoted to water features or hardscaping; the answers are straightforward and evenly presented. The question of doing-it-yourself versus contracting help is tackled as well; a nice inclusion for those used to reading DIY-only landscaping books.

There is an interesting chapter on construction, which really shows the ins and outs of how projects like planting beds come together. There is the de riguer chapter on planting waterwise, as well as one on drought-proofing, and even a chapter on managing pests in a responsible way, which can be helpful for gardeners looking for even more ways to manage their gardens organically. All in all, *Creating Your Eco-Friendly Garden* offers a lot of wise information that any local gardener with an eye for environmental gardening can appreciate. *–Amy R. Wood*

Ikebana International San Diego Chapter

41st Annual Flower Show

Theme "Colors of Spring"

March 21st and 22nd, 2009
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego

Ikebana Demonstrations

Sat 1:00 PM	Sogetsu School	Su 1:00 PM	Wafu Kai School
Sat 2:00 PM	Ichiyo School	Su 3:00 PM	Ohara School
Sat 3:00 PM	Ikenobo School		

Japanese Cultural Exhibition

March 22nd 2009 11:00pm – 4:00pm

Casa del Prado, Room 104

Exhibits and Demonstrations

12:00 - 12:30 PM	Boys Day
12:30 - 1:00 PM	Kimono Dressing
1:30 - 2:00 PM	Origami Panorama
2:30 - 3:00 PM	Sumie (Japanese Brush Painting)
3:30 - 4:00 PM	Koto Music

FREE ADMISSION

Demystifying Flower Shows

All about flower show entry and exhibition

By Carvill Veech

As spring approaches, can flower shows be far behind? Spring and summer months abound with flower shows, both in San Diego and countrywide. You can just enjoy attending them or, even better, become a participant.

Flower shows are sponsored by many types of organizations, so there are many types of flower shows. Garden clubs and societies for specific types of plants, such as roses, iris and cactus and succulent start planning a year in advance so that their shows will be perfect. A calendar of flower shows in San Diego County is available in *California Garden*'s Calendar (pg. 29)—check back in upcoming issues to catch all the county's shows.

As a member of several garden clubs and related organizations in San Diego County which belong to the National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGCI), I am most familiar with the "Standard Flower Show" rules, as described in the *Handbook for Flower Shows* by NGCI, Inc. (available for $15 from *www.gardenclub.org*). Information on local clubs and membership is available at *www.californiagardenclubs.org*.

Flower shows of all types are planned and staged by organizations so that members can exhibit their plants, flowers and floral designs—even botanical crafts. Flower shows also serve to educate the visitors about plant names, varieties and growing requirements in a particular region. NCGI Standard Flower Shows include educational information about the objectives of the organization, including public education and conservation. Flower arrangers enjoy competing in traditional, creative and even miniature design categories.

"Standard Flower Show"

To qualify as a Standard Flower Show the show is required to include horticulture and design exhibits. A written schedule is required so that all exhibitors are informed of the rules and regulations. Flower shows are judged by accredited or qualified judges in each subject area, whether horticulture or floral design. For NGCI Standard Flower Shows, NGCI trained judges are required.

Judge Accreditation

Accredited NGCI Flower Show judges attend four, two-day flower show schools over a two-year period, pass written exams and produce a flower show schedule. They must also personally enter and win several blue ribbons in flower shows. Membership in an NGCI member organization is also required. Judges are required to maintain their accreditation by attending continuing education symposia, exhibiting in shows and by judging standard flower shows.

Rose, iris, geranium, daylily, African violet and other specialized horticulture judges attend special training to become and remain certified.

The beautiful entries in flower shows sponsored by Ikebana societies are not judged and are usually limited to members of the sponsoring organization. All are well worth attending.

In addition to the National Council of Garden Clubs, there are garden clubs that are affiliated with Federated Garden Clubs and The Garden Club of America, neither of which are active in San Diego County.

Flower shows of all types can be held indoors or outdoors in public or private settings. By entering the name of an organization on the web, you can find out about the dates and contacts for almost any plant society or garden club flower show.

The Palomar District of California Garden Clubs, Inc., part of NGCI, has 17 member garden clubs in San Diego County. Many of these garden clubs sponsor a flower show annually or biannually. Some shows are fall or holiday shows, but most are spring or summer shows which showcase our peak growing and blooming seasons.

A Standard Flower Show must be sponsored by a NGCI member organization. A minimum number of floral designs and horticulture exhibits are required to qualify as a Standard Flower Show. For smaller garden clubs who choose to do a smaller show, the *Handbook for Flower Shows* defines a "Small Standard Flower Show" which requires fewer exhibits in design and in horticulture. Both are judged by NGCI-qualified judges.

Entering a Flower Show

Some flower shows are open entry, meaning anyone can enter. Some limit exhibitors to members. Virtually all flower shows may be attended by anyone interested.

The group producing each show publishes a flower show schedule, a booklet that defines the show rules and regulations and the categories the show will include. The show schedule should be carefully read by the exhibitor so that all requirements will be met.

Anyone interested in entering a flower show will be able to find out who is eligible to enter by contacting the show chairman, by reading the show schedule or show rules either on paper or online.

Entering a Floral Design

To many amateur flower arrangers, entering a competition is frightening. Will it be good enough? What will others think? Well, everyone starts off as a "novice," a novice being an exhibitor who has not won a blue ribbon in a category. With encouragement and a bit of inspiration, plus some practice, anyone can enter a floral design. Because of the space required for a design, reservations are often requested. The show schedule will list the design categories that are usually titled and described. Once you have decided to enter, contact the design section chairman, read the schedule very

thoroughly so you will meet all the requirements, and have fun with floral artistry.

The two basic types of design are Traditional and Creative designs. Traditional designs use traditional containers such as an urn, cylinder or bowl. Plant material is arranged in a natural position. Creative designs incorporate unusual, multipart containers with plant material arranged in often strangely angular placements. Many manmade materials and natural "found" items are added to the design. Both types are defined in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*.

To get ideas there are many books in the San Diego Floral Association Library and the designs for a Standard Flower Show are described in detail in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, which is available in many libraries. It is continually updated so the most current edition is the best one to use.

Entering a Horticulture Exhibit

Horticulture entries including plants and cut specimens usually do not require a reservation, but by all means read the show schedule or contacting the horticulture chairman for the regulations of a specific show.

Do you know the name of your flower or growing plant? Horticulture entries require this information. If you are not certain, research it and bring the binomial name to place on your entry card. That includes the genus and species and, if available, the cultivar name. Occasionally the commonly used name of a plant is the genus or species, but most often it is not.

Cut flowers and container plants should be entered when they are in their peak of cultural perfection. Flowers should be cut with a long stem and should be well-groomed. Damaged leaves may be trimmed and petals may be cleanly removed, but nothing may be added to a flower or plant. All debris must be cleaned from containers and bottles. Cut specimens will be displayed in clear bottles—preferably glass—or other containers provided by the flower show committee or the exhibitor. It is important to find out in advance who will provide the containers. In a Standard Flower Show, no leaves are permitted below the water line of a cut specimen. Wedging is permitted to hold the flower or foliage entry at its most attractive angle, but the supporting wedge must be unobtrusive. Celery, green plant stems, plastic wrap, wooden wedges and foil pieces are commonly used as wedging material. Whatever is used it should not protrude from the lip of the container. If the exhibitor is permitted to provide the clear containers, it is advisable to do so to guarantee that your entry will be presented to the judged in an erect and perky stance.

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Entering a rose, for instance, in a show can bring a great deal of satisfaction to any gardener, especially if the rose garners a ribbon. A ribbon winner in hybrid tea categories will be one-half to three-quarters open, neatly groomed, insect and disease free, blossom size proportional to the stem length, two or more sets of five leaves intact and facing the judges to its best advantage. The latter is called proper staging. Wedging is permitted but the stem thorns can act as a natural wedge in a narrow necked container.

What about Crafts?

Flower shows often include a floral crafts section for those who enjoy crafting with plant materials. No artificial plant material is permitted. Crafts may include jewelry made of plant materials, corsages, decorated wreaths, topiary, pine cone art, pressed flower art, bean and seed art, among others.

Enter Flowers and Plants in the Fair

PHOTO: AMY R WOOD

The biggest flower and garden show in Southern California takes place at the San Diego County Fair, June 12–July 5, 2009. The theme of the Fair this year is *Music Mania* and the Paul Ecke, Jr. Flower and Garden Show theme is *Rhapsody in Bloom*.

It includes demonstration gardens, floral arrangements, container plants and specimen blooms. One of the ways you can enjoy it most is by becoming a part of it. It is a huge show over a long period of time and there are a lot of opportunities to win prizes. Maybe you love to do miniature arrangements or grow terrific dahlias, orchids or roses. Perhaps you have a great looking container plant or built a fanciful birdhouse. Share your passion and you may even be recognized with first place.

Anyone can enter, but you can't just walk in with your entry. The competition information is scheduled to be available on March 16. You can request a competition handbook, but it's easier to find all the information and to enter online at *www.sdfair.com/entry*. You must plan ahead and submit your application before the deadline closing on May 8th. If you have questions you can call the Flower and Garden Show Office at 858-792-4273.

Gladiolus blooms at the Paul Ecke, Jr. Flower and Garden show.

PHOTO: LUCY WARREN

Floral Design Forum

For those interested in learning more about flower arranging, the Floral Design Forum presents local and international garden clubs floral designers, Ikebana masters and top commercial florists. Attendees include garden club members, flower show judges and anyone interested in watching floral designers in action.

The public is invited. Memberships are available on a yearly basis or attendees can pay $8 at the door for each event. The Floral Design Form is sponsored by the Palomar District of California Garden Clubs and is held at the Woman's Club of Carlsbad (3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad, CA). For information call Chairman Marcia Townsend at 760-749-4976.

March 2
"The Ladies from Ensenada"

Back by popular demand are "The Ladies from Ensenada," who will shop for flowers here and not have to worry about losing their flowers coming across the border. Plan on seeing lots of color and interesting designs.

April 6
Nancy Colvin, NGC Floral Designer

The National State Garden Clubs selected Nancy as the "Flower Arranger of the Year" in 2003, 2005 and 2006. Nancy will be here just in time for helping with ideas to finish off your designs for this year's flower shows.

May 4
Jim Johnson, "From the Garden to the Table"

Jim Johnson, well known national designer and instructor at Texas A&M, will be designing from the garden to the table.

Garden Conversations: Floral Judging

Suzanne Michel, president of the Floral Guild and long-time floral judge discusses judging with *California Garden* readers

By Alyssa Holderbein

As a young Girl Scout, Suzanne Michel was a Pedal Pusher, decorating floats for the Rose Parade. Years later, Suzanne is the president of the Floral Guild as well as being a co-chair of the Point Loma Garden Club, a chairperson on the Floral Arrangers Guild, the bookkeeper for the San Diego Floral Association and a judge on the Southwestern Judges Council. Suzanne was able to take time out of her very busy schedule to discuss floral judging with *California Garden* readers.

California Garden: How did you get interested in floral design?
Suzanne Michel: Years ago I became an intern for a florist but I didn't last too long because I was allergic to a variety of flowers. I can't be in closed areas with them. When I work with them I have to be in open areas. After that I joined several garden clubs in the Los Angeles area and started to get involved with the flower shows. At first I was intimidated. I had to learn that it wasn't about competing against other people, it was about making yourself better at what you do.

CG: How long have you been doing floral design?
SM: I believe my first flower show was the spring of 1990.

CG: How did that interest lead you into wanting to become a floral judge?
SM: After I joined the garden clubs I thought I might like judging also. I started as a student judge. Back then there were five courses that you take. After the third course you became a student judge. I was a student judge around 2001. Velma West really inspired me. I almost quit going to the courses to become a judge, but she was encouraged me to continue. A lot of her other students are now judges.

CG: Do you judge flower specimens or floral arrangements, or both?
SM: Both.

CG: Is this the same for other floral judges?
SM: The council that I am with is the National Garden Clubs. You can get certified in different programs including landscaping, floral, environmental and garden study. We judge both horticulture and floral design.

CG: How long does it take to become a floral judge, and what kind of training is involved?
SM: Now there are four courses to pass to be a judge. I started in 1999 and became an accredited judge in 2003. The courses are six months apart. There are different levels of accreditation, as well. I am one symposium away from being a life judge. To become a master I would need to pass two more symposiums.

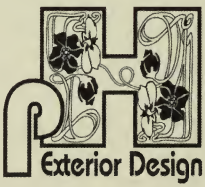
CG: Is there any kind of qualification required before you start this kind of training?
SM: Yes. You have to be a member of a garden club that is a member of a national garden club.

CG: Can anyone judge flower shows without the training?
SM: If the garden clubs are going for a state award or a national award they need certified judges.

CG: What would you recommend for a beginner?
SM: Take any kind of workshops on floral design. The San Diego Floral Association has some wonderful workshops. There is a design forum that Palomar District puts on at the Carlsbad Women's Club every Monday at 12:30 p.m. Different designers come in a teach workshops. A lot of garden clubs do this also.

CG: Once you are trained in San Diego can you be a floral judge anywhere?
SM: Sort of. You can go to different districts within the state where you are certified. You need permission to go out of the state.

CG: Is there a difference in qualification between judging amateur and professional floral designs?
SM: Yes there is. An example is when you go to the county fair. We are known as amateur floral judges and people like Rene Van Rems and David Root and anyone who is in the floral business are known as professional floral judges. The whole organization is called the American Institute of Floral Designers. There is a whole different slate of rules and regulations for professional judges.



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African Violets

Barbara Conrad, Carlsbad African Violet Society

- Revitalize violets by repotting every six months with fresh soil that has been sterilized in the oven or microwave.
- Leach violets with warm water at the first sign of fertilizer salts around the rim of the pot and/or on the top of the soil.
- Search the Internet to find commercial companies or individual growers who will sell and ship plants to you.
- Fertilize violets with one-half the amount suggested on the label if you use "wick" watering. This is a continuous water system and requires fewer nutrients in the watering well.
- Avoid fertilizers that use urea as an ingredient. Check the label!
- Isolate violets from other houseplants or cut flowers to avoid insect infestation.

Begonias

Doris Smith, Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society

- Replenish soil. Mulch where needed.
- Start feeding. Use one-fourth strength of an all-purpose plant food once a week, half strength if twice a month and full strength if once a month.
- Keep plants moist, not too wet.
- Start new plants from cuttings, leaves or seeds.
- Remove all spent blossoms and leaves.

Bonsai

Kora Dalager, San Diego Bonsai Club

- Repot bonsai. Deciduous trees need repotting more often than conifers. Repot deciduous trees every one to two years and conifers every two to three years.
- Root prune before repotting. Be sure to wire the roots into the pot securely.
- Broad-leaved evergreens such as azaleas should be repotted in March.
- Graft conifers and deciduous trees.
- Adjust watering according to weather conditions—avoid over-watering during the rainy season.
- Repotted trees should not be fertilized until one month after repotting; otherwise start fertilizing in April.
- Rape seed cake fertilizers are best for bonsai. Lacking that, use chemical fertilizers diluted to one-fourth strength to avoid root and leaf burn.
- Watch for aphids. Treat with insecticidal soap, protecting the soil. Aphids may be present on deciduous trees as well as on conifers.

Bromeliad

Mary Siemers, Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

- Start cleaning plants after their dormant winter. Cut dead leaves, remove spent blossoms and clean the entire plant by flushing inbetween the leaves and center cup.
- Check for scale. If present, treat with Cygon #2 according to the instructions on the bottle.
- Keep snails and slugs away. First clean all debris from the plant area then spread wood ashes around it.
- Start fertilizing. Spread one teaspoon of Osmocote formula 14-14-14 over the potting media. Foliage can also be sprayed with water-soluble fertilizer such as Miracle-Gro using one-half of the dosage recommended on the label.
- Build overhead protection to keep plants from sunburn during the hot summer. Use shade cloth or any other material that will allow plenty of sunlight through.
- Gradually increase watering as the weather warms up. Make sure not to over water the potting media. Bromeliads to not like soggy roots.

Cacti and Succulents

Joyce Buckner, The Plant Man Nursery in Old Town

- Fertilize your cacti and succulents. Broadcast a time-release solid (pebble-like) fertilizer throughout your garden. Fertilizer numbers should all be under 20 and relatively equal (Dynamite 13-13-13 works well). If using a liquid fertilizer, be careful to dilute. Use half strength or less for all your succulents, especially those in pots.
- Make sure plants are given adequate water after fertilizing. If it doesn't rain, be sure to water, especially in Santa Ana conditions. Spring is an important growth period for both your winter growers (Dudleyas, Senecios, Aeoniums) and your summer growers (most Cacti, Agaves, Pachypodiums, Adeniums, etc.). Once the nighttime temperature stays above 50 degrees you should thoroughly water all cacti. Slowly soak the soil if planted in the garden, and set potted cacti in pans of water to drench the soil but not the plant. This will help leach out any accumulated salts and promote healthy roots. Many of the more exotic, grafted and white spined (or furry) cactus do not respond well to overwatering.

Camellias

Sharon Lee, San Diego Camellia Society

- Begin a fertilizing program. Feed three times during the year. The first feeding is in March. An easy way to remember the schedule is to feed around St. Patrick's Day, Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. As new growth comes on towards the end of the month and starts to elongate, it is time to feed. For the first feeding, mix blood meal with cottonseed meal at a ratio of one part blood meal to four parts cottonseed. It is also recommended to add chelated iron at this time. You can also use a pre-mixed camellia/azalea fertilizer.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March 9: How Sustainable Practices Change our Ideal Landscapes
Los Angeles landscape designer **Pamela Berstler** presents an eye-opening talk about sustainable gardening, and contemplates the future of gardens as natural and sustainable environments. Members free, non-members $5.

April 13: How to be Part of Your Native Plant Garden
Native plant enthusiast **Mike Evans**, owner of Tree of Life Nursery, talks about connecting to nature in your own back yard, and discusses practical techniques needed to get "nature" to fit into a small garden space. Members free, non-members $5.

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- Watch for aphids and hose them off with a spray of water. They are attracted to the soft new growth.
- Prune before new growth starts or while new growth is under one inch long. Cut the branch back to its origin or to an outward pointing growth bud or dormant bud eye and don't leave more than one-fourth inch of stub at the cut. Keep in mind the three universal pruning points: 1) Remove all dead or weak branches, 2) remove all crossing branches that may interfere with other branches and 3) remove branches to open up the center of the plant in order to allow light to enter and air to circulate.
- Keep picking up and discarding those fallen blooms.

Dahlias

Dave Tooley, San Diego Dahlia Society

- Prepare gardens/pots for spring planting.
- Dig and divide dahlias.
- Plant tubers beginning in April when soil is warm. Tubers should be planted four to six inches down and planted horizontally with "eye" up. Stake at this time, hang a nametag on top of stake.
- Keep moist but not wet until plant has broken the surface of the soil. Protect from harsh sun and water lightly.
- Protect from snails and slugs.

Epiphyllums

Phil Peck, San Diego Epiphyllum Society

- Watch weather for possible late frosts.
- Trim dead and unsightly branches.
- Check for ants, aphids and scale.
- Feed epiphyllums with a low-nitrogen fertilizer. A low nitrogen fertilizer is the accepted standard, though many find that any fertilizer works fine, as long as there is some applied.
- Check trellis and ties to insure plants are well-secured.
- Give plants more filtered sunlight, but not direct sun, to encourage bud development.
- Bait for snails. Granules are effective when placed at the base of the plant. Nightly 'patrols' with a flashlight are effective. A one-percent solution spray of caffeine is also very effective, if you can find it.
- Make sure all pots are in place a place where they have good drainage.
- Take cuttings now to callous before planting.
- Remove buds from young plants. You will be rewarded with a healthier plant and more blooms in the future.

Ferns

Bob Halley, San Diego Fern Society

- Fertilize with half strength high nitrogen liquid or slow release pellets.
- Remove dead and dying fronds. Clean up plants for spring.
- Water more frequently as most ferns are starting to grow now. Save rainwater for plants that don't get it naturally. It will leach out salts.
- Divide and repot overgrown plants as they start to grow. Top-dress others.
- Spray for aphids, thrips and scale. Start looking for snails and slugs. Spread bait as needed.
- Watch for giant white flies. Best treated by wiping off egg spirals and hosing plants.
- Sow last year's spores.

Fruit Trees and Vines

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

- Irrigate when new growth begins, if the soil is not moist, to a depth of three feet.
- Apply fertilizer high in nitrogen. Most mature fruit trees require the equivalent of one pound of actual nitrogen annually. Divide the amount of fertilizer required into three equal lots and apply them six weeks apart, starting in the spring after new growth begins.
- Begin thinning fruit of apples, pears and stone fruit when they are about one-half inch in size. Space fruit four to six inches apart. Leave one fruit per spur. Thin early-maturing varieties earlier and heavier than late-maturing varieties.
- Check trees for pests. Wash foliage periodically with a forceful spray of water to dislodge aphids, spider mites and whiteflies. If a pesticide is needed, use a chemical that has a short residual activity, such as insecticidal soap, horticultural oil or pyrethrin, to protect beneficial insects.
- Keep ants off trees by wrapping a band of heavy paper or duct tape around the trunk and coating it with a sticky material like Tanglefoot. Trim branches that touch other objects to stop ants from going around the barrier. Also place ant stakes or small containers with toxic bait by ant nests and trails.
- Spray apples after bloom to control coding moth (wormy fruit). Apply carbaryl (Sevin) after petals have fallen and again three weeks later. For other control methods see the UC Pest Note on Coding Moth at *www.ipm.ucdavis.edu*.
- Control powdery mildew on grapes. Apply sulfur spray (Safer Garden Fungicide) or dust when new shoots are 6", 12", 18" and 24" long, then every two weeks, or as needed until harvest.

Herbs

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Weed and prep beds.
- Amend and fertilize soil.
- Plant annual herbs after the last frost. Borage, cilantro and dill will do better if planted by seed. Basil can be grown by seed or transplant.
- Protect new plants from snails and slugs.
- Harvest from our native herbs: sagebrush, Yerba Mansa, white sage, black sage and elderberry, among others.
- Make fresh herbal bouquets with mint, thyme, rosemary and sage. Fresh or dried, the make great gifts for your gourmand friends.

Irises

Leon Vogel, San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

- Start feeding low-nitrogen, all-purpose fish fertilizers.
- Water regularly if there is no rain.
- Clean beds and keep weeds under control.
- Watch for pests—systemic spray applied as a drench will usually free iris of aphids and thrips.
- Give Japanese and Louisiana irises an application of an acid food—a camellia-type fertilizer is convenient to use.

Native Plants

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Monitor the local rainfall total. If it is above average, no extra water is needed.
- Finish planting natives. March is the end of the planting season

San Diego County Orchid Society

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General Meeting:
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for most drought tolerant species. Some riparian area natives, such as Yerba mansa, can be planted throughout the year.
- Weed out the non-natives (sowthistle and such).

Orchids

Christopher Croom, San Diego County Orchid Society

- Repot anything needing a new pot. This is a great time to replace any green and white moss in pots and baskets that rotted during the winter.
- Train developing spikes, particularly with Oncidium.
- Begin or increase watering for deciduous orchids as temperatures increase and plants show signs of growth.
- Water plants more often and make sure that the increased light and temperatures don't cause sun damage. Fertilizers can be increased this time of year, too.
- Finish all repotting before temperatures get too hot.
- Monitor cooler-growing plants to make sure they are not getting stressed as temperatures rise.
- Pot up keikeis (the babies) from your Epidendrum stems to make new plants.

Pelargoniums

Jim Zemcik, San Diego Geranium Society

- Remove dead, older and/or damaged leaves. This will promote new growth and protect against molds and fungi, including geranium rust on zonals. Removal of older leaves allows more light into the plant interior and will result in fuller plants with more blooms.
- Repot into larger containers where necessary and pot rooted cuttings.
- Maintain a steady watering cycle. Even in rainy conditions the foliage may get wet but the rain may run off the foliage and not get into the pot. Keep your plants watered.
- Continue feeding with a got commercial fertilizer. Use one-third to one-half of the labels recommended strength. Apply at two-week intervals.
- Continue a pest control and disease prevention program. Guard against geranium rust, budworm and aphids. There are several combination products that contain both an insecticide and fungicide and will treat with one application. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations and keep preventative control on a steady, continuous schedule.
- Top pinch any long or barren stems to promote fuller growth and increased flowering.
- Protect plants from late season freezes. Use temporary coverings, move plants to an elevated location or place plants in a protected place overnight.
- Spread plants so they have plenty of room to grow. This provides better air circulation and light which helps to prevent pests and disease.
- Continue to rotate plants to keep them well shaped.

Plumeria

Frank Zotter, Southern California Plumeria Society

- Move potted plants from protected winter areas to warm full sun.
- Start watering and fertilizing with a low nitrogen fertilizer like 3-12-12.
- Take cuttings and prune; prune only to shape the plant.
- Repot plants and "top up" larger plants; this is to replace the soil with a fresh and revitalized mix. Use one-half cactus mix, one-fourth #3 perlite and one-fourth wormgold. Keep soil at same level as before.
- Expect first new blooms from last season's remaining inflorescence.

Roses

Roger English, San Diego Rose Society

- Apply at least one inch of water twice per week to keep plants well hydrated.
- Start the growing season fertilizer routine. There are many successful methods of doing this with organic foods or synthetic chemicals.
- Control aphids by washing them off with a strong stream of water from the hose in the early morning. Aphids are clustered on new growth. It is easy to squish them between your fingers. Insecticidal soap and horticultural sprays are effective.
- Control rose slugs (sawfly larvae) using Spinosad, which is an organic product. Rose slugs thrive on the underside of leaves and eat most of the leaf, leaving only lacy looking skeletal remains. Spinosad is also the best choice for caterpillars.
- Control powdery mildew. Either wash each bud with a water spray every morning or spray with fungicides. Good control is achieved by alternating Compass and Banner Maxx, spraying every two weeks. You can also shovel-prune bushes that are susceptible and replace them with mildew-resistant plants.
- Love and preserve beneficial insects by avoiding the use of any general pesticide like Orthene or Merit. Keeping beneficial insects alive will keep spider mites dead. If you use powerful pesticides like the two mentioned, spray only the flower buds or spot spray the new growth where there is an aphid infestation.
- Look for and preserve basal cane growth, which is new growth originating at or slightly above the bud union (where the blooming part of the rose grafted to the root stock). Gently stake these new canes.
- For any information or questions about roses, go to the San Diego Rose Society website (*www.sdrosesociety.org*) and click on Ask an Expert.
- There is extensive information and excellent photos of pests and beneficial insects at the University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management website (*www.ipm.ucdavis,edu/pmg/menu.homegarden.html*).

Vegetables

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

- Prepare soil for planting by incorporating compost and a complete fertilizer high in phosphorus. Apply chemical fertilizers just before planting. If manures are used, apply them several weeks before planting and irrigate to leach salts from the surface soil. Apply no more than 20 pounds of poultry manure or 50 pounds of steer manure per 100 square feet.
- Plant cool season vegetables: Beets, carrots, celeriac, celery (transplants), chard, chives, endive, leeks, lettuce, green onions, parsley, parsnips, bush peas (March), early white potatoes, radish, rutabaga (March) and spinach (March).
- Plant warm season vegetables after danger of frost is past and soil is warm: Snap beans, cantaloupes, chayote, corn, cucumber, eggplant, Florence fennel, okra, peppers, sweet potatoes, squash, tomatoes and watermelon.
- Use hot caps or floating row covers to promote faster growth of tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and other warm season vegetables.

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SDFA Calendar

A listing of the best gardening-related activities in the county for March and April 2009

March Events

MARCH 2

PALOMAR DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FLORAL DESIGN FORUM
Featuring the Ladies from Ensenada.
When: 12:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
Where: Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad, CA
More information: 760-749-4976, ***www.geocities.com/pdgardenclubs***

MARCH 3

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
The SDCOS is holding two meetings: a general meeting and a novice class for those interested in learning more about orchids. Everyone is welcome!
When: Novice Class 6:30 p.m.; General Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 104 (Novice Class), Room 101 (General Meeting) Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: ***www.sdorchids.com***

MARCH 4

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
Come learn how to grow and use herbs with this lively group.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: 519-579-0222, ***www.thesandiegoherbclub.com***

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
Carpool to the San Diego Wild Animal Park to provide maintenance to the Chandler Herb Garden.
When: 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.
More information: Debbie Gomez 760-789-6709, ***www.ramonagardenclub.com***

MARCH 6

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
The Vista Garden Club Monthly Meeting begins at noon; program begins about 1:15 p.m. Gwen Tubach from the Silvermink Protea Farm brings us protea and related Australian native plants with "The Wonderful World of Protea."
When: 12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.
Where: Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1200 Vale Terrace Dr. Vista, CA
More information: ***www.vistagardenclub.org***

MARCH 8

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING
The San Diego Bonsai Club has two monthly offerings: a 9:00 a.m. class for beginner and novice members, and a 10:30 a.m. meeting and program.
When: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: ***www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com***

MARCH 9

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
Pamela Berstler, founding member of the Green Gardens Group, L.A. (G3LA), will speak of "The Deep Psychology of Unsustainable Design—How Sustainable Practices Change Our Ideal Landscape." Program followed by plant forum. Admittance for members is free, non-members $5.
When: 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Where: Surfside room, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA
More information: 760-295-7089, ***www.sdhortsoc.org***

MARCH 10

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
Come listen to "Palms by Don Martin."
When: 12:00 p.m.
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center, CA
More information: ***www.dosvallesgardenclub.org***

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
The San Diego Geranium Society Meeting features guest speakers, plant raffles and refreshments; plant cuttings are usually available. Bring a friend, bring a plant for raffle and enjoy!
When: 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: 619-447-8243, ***www.sdgeranium.org***

MARCH 11

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Join them for their monthly meeting.
When: 9:30 a.m. Hospitality; 10:00 a.m. Meeting
Where: Bonita Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA
More Information: Darlene Montgomery, 619-267-1585, ***dmontg@live.com***

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Emmy Award winning TV personality, garden writer and horticultural consultant, Pat Welsh, presents a program that will enlighten and entertain.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego, CA
More Information: ***www.plgc.org***

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
Come join in for refreshments, door prize, plant swapping, plant sales and program.
When: 12:00 p.m.
Where: Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona, CA
More information: ***www.ramonagardenclub.com***

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
Come join in and learn about epiphyllums. A special drawing is held among attending members, and all first-time guests are welcomed with a free four-inch potted epi (sign in to be eligible).
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: ***www.epiphyllum.com***

2 DAYS

MARCH 12

ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT AT CUYAMACA COLLEGE
The Sustainable Urban Landscape Conference, featuring landscape professionals and bus tours of local sustainable landscape sites.
When: March 12-13, contact for more information
Where: Cuyamaca College Campus
More information: Don Schultz 619-660-4023, ***www.cuyamaca.net/OHweb/***

MARCH 14

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
Three Bromeliad Personalities: Victoria Padilla, Werner Rauh and Ed Hummell.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: ***www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html***

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
Learn more about these water-saving plants at the SDCSS monthly meeting. Come early for the plant sale!
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: ***www.sdcss.com***

MARCH 16

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY MEETING
Visitors are always welcome to the monthly meetings. Learn tips to enhance the beauty of your blossoms.
When: 7:30 p.m. monthly meeting and program
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: ***www.sdrosesociety.org***

MARCH 17

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Learn about the native flora of San Diego County and the use of native plants in gardens. New members will receive a gift; a sales table is also available.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: 760-434-5033, ***www.cnpssd.org***

MARCH 17 CONTINUED

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Programs, friends and more.
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 5171 Crystal Drive La Jolla, CA
More Information: Fran Sheinbein, 858-488-5618

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Join this group for their monthly meeting.
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Contact group for details
More information: Carol Wells, 619-749-8325

MARCH 18

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY MEETING
Meetings are free to the public.
When: 7:00–7:30 p.m. refreshments and social hour; 7:30–9:00 p.m. meeting, speaker and plant raffle.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: President Dean Turney, 760-942-1919

MARCH 19

BERNARDO GARDENERS CLUB MEETING
Shari Matteson, owner of Buena Creek Gardens will provide information and plants for sale to create a beautiful bird and butterfly sanctuary.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: RB Swim & Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive, Rancho Bernardo, CA. (Please call, as future meeting sites may vary.)
More information: 858-673-8728, *www.bernardogardeners.org*

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Come join in the fun!
When: 11:45 a.m.
Where: Norman Park Center, Chula Vista, CA
More Information: Marilyn Saleny, 619-421-6072

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING
The San Diego Fern Society meeting is an opportunity for people to study ferns together and encourage the joy and use of ferns in gardens, patios and homes. Guests are welcome.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdfern.com*

MARCH 21

JAPANESE IKEBANA FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS AND CULTURAL EXHIBITIONS
Come and enjoy a day of flowers, learning and friends.
When: 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where Rooms 101 and 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

MARCH 24

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB
Monthly meetings give you a wealth of information on organic gardening.
When: 6:30 p.m. social; 7:00 p.m. meeting
Where: Bonita Museum, 4355 Bonita Rd, Bonita, CA
More Information: Bernadette Mingus, 619-200-5073, *bernadettemingus@yahoo.com*

SAN DIEGO DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
Join this group to learn about the delightful dahlia.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: President, David J. Tooley, 858-672-2593

MARCH 25

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS—SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
Learn how to select and grow rare fruit in San Diego.
When: 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.crfgsandiego.org*

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
Come for floral arrangements and a lecture on the history of San Diego's Balboa Park.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Casa del Prado, San Diego, CA
More Information: 858-673-3535, *hiropan8@san.rr.com*

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Monthly meetings are free to members. While guests are welcome, there is an admission fee of $10 for non-members.
When: 6:00 p.m. Social; 6:30 p.m. Meeting and Speaker
Where: Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Come for the social time and stay for the program.
When: 9:30 a.m. Social; 10:00 a.m. Meeting
Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinitas, CA
More Information: Geri Thirloway, President, 858-755-3284, *http://sdgc.klmmicro.com/*

MARCH 26

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA MEETING
This members-only meeting will feature Rosemary Alexander, presenting "Getting the Most out of Visiting Gardens."
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Dr. No., La Jolla
More information: Ann Craig, 858-454-4117, *www.villagegardencluboftajolla.com*

April Events

APRIL 1

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
Come learn how to grow and use herbs with this lively group.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: 519-579-0222, *thesandiegoherbclub.com*

APRIL 3

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
The Vista Garden Club Monthly Meeting begins at noon; program begins about 1:15 p.m. This month's program is "The Flower Show Explained."
When: 12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.
Where: Gloria McClellan Senior Center, 1200 Vale Terrace Dr. Vista, CA
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

APRIL 6

PALOMAR DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FLORAL DESIGN FORUM
Nancy Colvin, "Flower Arranger of the Year" in 2003, 2005 and 2006 will be here to help you with your flower show designs.
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe Sr., Carlsbad, CA
More information: 760-749-4976, *www.geocities.com/pdgardenclubs*

APRIL 7

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
The SDCOS is holding two meetings: a general meeting and a novice class for those interested in learning more about orchids. Everyone is welcome!
When: Novice Class 6:30 p.m.; General Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 104 (Novice Class), Room 101 (General Meeting) Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

APRIL 8

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Join this group for their monthly meeting.
When: Hospitality 9:30 a.m., Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Where: Bonita Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA
More Information: Darlene Montgomery, 619-267-1585, *dmontg@live.com*

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
It's the Annual Bus Tour—please contact the group for more details.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.plgc.org*

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
Come join in for refreshments, door prize, plant swapping, plant sales and program.
When: 12:00 p.m.
Where: Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona, CA
More information: *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

APRIL 8 CONTINUED

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
Come join in and learn about epiphyllums. A special drawing is held among attending members, and all first-time guests are welcomed with a free four-inch potted epi (sign in to be eligible).
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

APRIL 11

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
Learn about bromeliads at this morning meeting.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

APRIL 12

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING
The San Diego Bonsai Club has two monthly offerings: a 9:00 a.m. class for beginner and novice members, and a 10:30 a.m. meeting and program.
When: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
Tree of Life Nursery owner Mike Evans will discuss connecting to nature in your own backyard with "How to be a Part of Your Native Plant Garden." Program followed by plant forum. Admittance for members is free, non-members $5.
When: 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Where: Surfside room, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA
More information: 760-295-7089, *www.sdhortsoc.org*

APRIL 14

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
Join this group for the program, "Flower Show Preparation."
When: 12 p.m.
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center CA
More information: *www.dosvallesgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
The San Diego Geranium Society Meeting features guest speakers, plant raffles and refreshments; plant cuttings are usually available. Bring a friend, bring a plant for raffle and enjoy!
When: 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More information: 619-447-8243, *www.sdgeranium.org*

APRIL 15

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY MEETING
Meetings are free to the public.
When: 7:00 p.m. refreshments and social hour; 7:30 p.m. meeting, speaker and plant raffle.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: President Dean Turney, 760-942-1919

APRIL 16

BERNARDO GARDENERS CLUB
Spring Garden Tour. A self-guided tour of member and community gardens.
Please call for time and location.
More information: 858-673-8728, *www.bernardogardeners.org*

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Come join in the fun!
When: 11:45 A.M.
Where: Norman Park Center, Chula Vista, CA
More Information: Marilyn Saleny, 619-421-6072

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING
The San Diego Fern Society meeting is an opportunity for people to study ferns together and encourage the joy and use of ferns in gardens, patios and homes. Guests are welcome.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdfern.com*

2 DAYS

APRIL 18

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOW AND PLANT SALE
Please stop by for this fun event and leave with a great plant! The theme is "Let's Party!"
When: 1:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m. (Sat., April 18); 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (Sun. April 19)
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center CA
More information: *www.dosvallesgardenclub.org*

APRIL 20

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY MEETING
Visitors are always welcome to the monthly meeting and Little Rose Show. Learn tips to enhance the beauty of your blossoms.
When: 6:00p.m. mini-rose show; 6:30 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner; 7:30 p.m. program
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdrosesociety.org*

APRIL 21

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY—SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Join the CNPSSD for camaraderie and more. New members will receive a gift; a sales table is also available.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: 760-434-5033, *www.cnpssd.org*

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Programs, friends and more.
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 5171 Crystal Drive La Jolla, CA
More Information: Fran Sheinbein, 858-488-5618

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Join this group for their monthly meeting.
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Contact group for details
More information: Carol Wells, 619-749-8325

APRIL 22

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS—SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
Learn how to select and grow rare fruit in San Diego.
When: 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.crfgsandiego.org*

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
Come enjoy floral arrangements and a lecture.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Casa del Prado, San Diego, CA
More Information: 858-673-3535, *hiropan8@san.rr.com*

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Monthly meetings are free to members. While guests are welcome, there is an admission fee of $10 for non-members.
When: 6:00 p.m. Social; 6:30 p.m. Meeting and Speaker
Where: Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Come for the social time and stay for the program.
When: 9:30 a.m. Social; 10:00 a.m.–12:00 Noon Meeting
Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinitas, CA
More Information: Geri Thirloway, President, 858-755-3284, *http://sdgc.klmmicro.com/*

APRIL 23

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
Guests are welcome to the Art and Floral Design Show, "Expressions in Art and Flowers."
When: 9:00 a.m. Social Hour, 10:00 a.m. Meeting & Program
Where: Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Dr. No., La Jolla
More information: Ann Craig, 858-454-4117, *www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com*

APRIL 27

PALOMAR DISTRICT MEETING
Eric Lawson presents the "History of Water and its Problems in S.D."
When: Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.; Luncheon 11:45 p.m.; Speaker 1:00 p.m.
Where: Escondido Country Club, 1800 W. Country Club Dr., Escondido, CA
More Information: Director Jerry Thirolway, 858-755-3284

APRIL 28

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB
Monthly meetings give you a wealth of information on organic gardening.
When: 6:30 p.m. Social; 7:00 p.m. Meeting
Where: Bonita Museum, 4355 Bonita Rd, Bonita, CA
More Information: Bernadette Mingus, 619-200-5073, *bernadettemingus@yahoo.com*

SAN DIEGO DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
Join this group to learn about the delightful dahlia.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: President, David J. Tooley, 858-672-2593

Gardening Classes

"GARDENING IS FUN!"
Connie Beck helps you solve your gardening problems and find out what's new with this friendly organic gardening group. Cost is $3.
When: 8:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m., March 5 through April 2
Where: La Mesa Enrichment Center, 8450 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa CA
More information: La Mesa Enrichment Center, 619-464-0505.

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO WATER DEPARTMENT IS OFFERING "THE CALIFORNIA FRIENDLY GARDENING FOR THE WATER WISE GARDENER."
This class will be an overview of basic concepts for water-wise landscape design. Reservations required.
When: Saturday, March 7, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Where: Live Well Center, 4425 Bannock Ave., San Diego, CA 92117
More Information: Call (619) 533-6661 or email *vtorres@sandiego.gov*

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, PT. LOMA GARDENING CLASS
Learn a variety of gardening tricks every Saturday morning by attending a free class at Walter Andersen Nursery's Pt. Loma Nursery. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Pt. Loma, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego CA
More Information: *www.walterandersen.com*

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, POWAY GARDENING CLASS
Come join others at Walter Andersen's Poway store for a free, weekly seasonal garden lecture. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway CA
More Information: *www.walterandersen.com*

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN CLASSES
The Water Conservation Garden provides a number of entertaining, information-packed courses covering the most topical gardening topics and presented by skilled and knowledgeable experts. Please contact the Water Conservation Garden for program details and any applicable fees.
When: Contact for program-specific times.
Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon CA
More Information: *www.thegarden.org*, 619-660-0614, x10

Walks, Tours & Garden Events

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS TOUR
Come and meet up at the Visitor's Center for a weekly tour of the Quail Botanical Gardens. No reservations required. Free with admission.
When: 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas CA
More Information: *www.qbgardens.org*

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS: CHILDREN'S EVENTS
The Quail Botanical Garden offers a number of events specially designed to entertain and educate children and their caregivers. Please contact Quail Botanical Gardens for a complete listing of their scheduled events.
When: Ongoing—contact for program-specific times.
Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas CA
More Information: *www.qbgardens.org*

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN TOUR
Enjoy a docent-led tour of the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College.
When: Every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m.
Where: Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA
More Information: *http://thegarden.org*

CNPS NATIVE PLANT WALK
Join landscape architect and member of the CNPS San Diego Chapter Kay Stewart for a two-hour, easy walk into Tecolote Canyon and back. Along the way you'll study and learn about the plants. This guided walk is free.
When: 9 a.m.–11 a.m., first Sunday of the month
Where: Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road, San Diego, CA
More Information: *http://cnpssd.org*

BUENA CREEK GARDENS FREE GARDEN TOUR
Join Steve Brigham for this free, monthly garden tour.
When: 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m., second Saturday of each month
Where: Buena Creek Gardens, 418 Buena Creek Rd. San Marcos, CA
More Information: *www.buenacreekgardens.com*

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN
Come visit the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum's exquisite Asian garden.
When: 10:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m., Sunday
Where: San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden, 404 3rd Ave., San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sdchm.org/garden*

Balboa Park Events

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Visit the world famous San Diego Zoo for Plant Days and Orchid Odyssey.
When: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., third Friday of each month
Where: San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.sandiegozoo.com*

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN
Enhance your well-being with a visit to this Japanese-style garden, There is a $4 fee for adults, $2.50 fee for Seniors (55+), children and military with I.D.
When: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday
Where: San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.niwa.org*

BALBOA PARK OFFSHOOT TOURS
Learn about Balboa Park's plants as volunteer horticulturists lead visitors on free, one-hour themed walks. (Inclement weather and low-turnout cancels the tour.)
When: 10:00 a.m., every Saturday starting January 12
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.balboapark.org*

Balboa Park Interpretive Walks
Join volunteer-guides on this free, history-oriented walk through Balboa Park.
When: 1:00 p.m., every Tuesday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA
More Information: *www.balboapark.org*

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM CANYONEER WALKS
Join trained volunteer guides on a local canyon walks. There is a $2 fee.
When: Times vary; check website for specific event details
Where: Locations vary; check website for specific event details
More Information: *www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers*

All events, prices, venues, dates and times subject to change without notice.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Garden Center and Library – Founded in 1907

1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684 619-232-5762 Located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park

Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

Mission Statement: To Promote The Knowledge And Appreciation Of Horticulture And Floriculture In The San Diego Region.

GENERAL MEETINGS 2009

February 17
April 21
June 16
October 20
Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

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949-499-5518
marshab@gte.net

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619-232-6203
www.marstonhuse.org
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www.niwa.org

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Director: Jerry Thirloway
1105 Santa Madera Ct.
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858-755-3284
www.californiagardenclubs.org

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P. O. Box 230005
Encinitas, CA 92023-0005
760-436-3036
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www.qbgardens.org

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619-234-8901
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Alexander Chuang
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San Diego, CA 92101-6803
619-338-9888
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P. O. Box 120551
San Diego, CA 92112-0551
619-231-1515 Ext. 4298
www.sandiegozoo.org

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL
Chair: Sandi Lord
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Pauma Valley, CA 92061-0876
760-727-7614
Meets first Wednesday (Sep., Nov., Jan., Mar., May) at 10:30 a.m., North County Fair, Escondido, Community Room

TAKA SUMI-E SOCIETY
Contact: Takashi Ijichi
1455 49th Street
San Diego, CA 92102-2625
619-255-2501
takasumi-e@email.com
Meets first Sunday (Feb., Mar., Apr., Sep., Oct., Nov.) from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Casa del Prado

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12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon
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619-660-0614
info@thegarden.org
www.thegarden.org

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:

CLASSIC GARDENS
P. O. Box 2711
La Jolla, CA 92038-2711
858-459-0316

MASTER LANDSCAPE SERVICES, INC.
3089C Clairemont Drive #296
San Diego, CA 92117-6802
619-296-9687

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Del Mar, CA 92014-2216
www.sdfair.com

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858-522-6760
www.sdcwa.org

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P. O. Box 27179
San Diego, CA 92198-1179
858-673-8728
www.bernardogardeners.org
Meets third Thursday at 1:00 p.m.
Rancho Bernardo Library

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2476 Eagle Valley Rd. Chula Vista, CA 91914
619-216-8863
Meets second Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., Bonita Public Library

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950 Olive Ave.
Coronado, CA 92118-2710
619-437-8227
Meets fourth Monday at 9:30 a.m.
Winn Room, Coronado Public Library

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB
President: Ellen McGrath-Thorpe
Publicity: Mary Hassing
P. O. Box 626, Carlsbad, CA 92008
619-494-7774
www.carlsbadgardenclub.com

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P. O. Box 57
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619-421-6072
Meets third Thursday at 11:45 a.m.
Norman Park Senior Center

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P. O. Box 180188
Coronado, CA 92118-0188
619-435-8079

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619-435-5474
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Valley Center, CA 92082
760-749-5078
www.dosvallesgardenclub.org
Meets second Tuesday at 12:00 p.m., except July and August
St Stephen Catholic Church
31020 Cole Grade Road,
Valley Center

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President: Judy Farnan
P. O. Box 1702
Fallbrook, CA 92088-1702
760-451-0792
Meets third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., FPUD Bldg.
on Mission Rd.
Meets last Thursday at 9:30 a.m., Fallbrook Presbyterian Church on Stage Coach

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
President: Fran Sheinbein
2500 Torrey Pines Road #1301
La Jolla, CA 92037
858-450-1769
sey@sbcglobal.net
Meets third Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.
La Jolla Lutheran Church,
7117 La Jolla Blvd,
La Jolla, CA 92037

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
President: Vernon Bluhm
710 W. 13th Ave. G118
Escondido, CA 92025
760-745-4008
vbluhm@cox.net
Meets fourth Monday at 2:00 p.m., Rancho Bernardo Library, Second Floor

LAS JARDINERAS
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San Diego, CA 92107
619-222-3559
Meets third Monday at 10:30 a.m.
Homes of Members

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809 Olive Ave., #40
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760-726-4047

Co-President: Don Nelson
952 Park Hill Drive
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760-630-3580
donnelson12@sbcglobal.net
Meets third Saturday (Sept.-Jun. only) at 12:45 p.m.
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MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB
President: Meredith French
3145 Brant Street
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619-260-1588
www.missionhillsgardenclub.org
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President: Julie Hasl
824 Moana Dr.
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www.plgc.org
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858-672-0459

Co-President: Lucille Rosicky
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858-672-6225
http://home.san.rr.com/pvgc
Meets second Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., Lake Poway Pavilion

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www.ramonagardenclub.org
Meets second Wednesday at 12:00 p.m., Ramona Women's Club

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1818 Sonetts Dr.
El Cajon, CA 92019
619-749-8325
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www.rsfgardenclub.org

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9241 Galston Dr.
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San Diego, CA 92195
619-269-6184
www.sandiegogardenclub.org

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President: Susi Torre-Bueno
P. O. Box 231869
Encinitas, CA 92023-1869
760-295-7089
Meets second Monday (except June) at 6:00 p.m.
Surfside Race Place, Del Mar, Fairgrounds

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
President: Geri Thirloway
1105 Santa Madera Ct.
Solana Beach, CA 92075
858-755-3284
sandieguitogardenclub.org
Meets fourth Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., Quail Botanical Gardens

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President: Ann Craig
1802 Amalfi St.
La Jolla, CA 92037-3803
858-454-4117 *www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com*
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Torrey Pines Christian Church

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President: Barbara Weiler
2920 Harris Dr.
Vista, CA 92084-1418
760-630-0383
www.vistagardenclub.org
Meets first Friday at 12:00 p.m., Vista Senior Center

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10411 San Carlos Dr.
Spring Valley, CA 91978-1034
619-660-2046

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
President: Hiroko Fukuhara
c/o S.D. Botanical Garden Foundation
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-4792
858-673-3635
hiropan8@san.rr.com
Meets fourth Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

IKEBANA CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
President: Mrs. Charles Oehler
2822 Walker Dr., San Diego, CA 92123-3056
858-278-5689

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER
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Solana Beach, CA 92075
858-672-7850
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La Jolla, CA 92037-6310
858-454-4793

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San Diego, CA 92154-2160
619-429-6198

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CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
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2000 S. Melrose Dr., #119
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760-295-0484
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700 Eucalyptus Ave.

BEGONIA

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President: Doris Smith
4505 Long Branch Ave.
San Diego, CA 92107-2333
619-222-1294
Meets second Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members

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465 4th Avenue #3
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619-409-4997
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President: Michael Ludwig
6040 Upland St.
San Diego, CA 92114-1933
619-262-7535
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HON NON BO ASSOCIATION
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9976 Dauntless St.
San Diego, CA 92126-5514
858-689-0957
Meets first Sunday (every other month, begin Feb.) at 10:30 a.m.
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
P. O. Box 40037
San Diego, CA 92164-0037
619-699-8776
Meets second Sunday at 10:30 a.m., Beginning & intermediate classes at 9:00 a.m., Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

BROMELIAD

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK
President: Chuck Largin
3818 Bonita View Dr.
Bonita, CA 91902
Meets second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
President: Nancy Groves
P. O. Box 83996
San Diego, CA 92138-3966
858-453-6486 (weekends only)
http://bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html
Meets second Saturday at 10:00 a.m., Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

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PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
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P. O. Box 840
Escondido, CA 92033
760-741-7553
Meets fourth Saturday at 12:15 p.m., Joslyn Senior Center in Escondido

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President: Mark Fryer
P. O. Box 33181
San Diego, CA 92163-3181
619-795-1020
Meets second Saturday at 1:00 p.m., Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

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SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Dean Turney
467 Sulvia St.
Encinitas, CA 92024
760-942-1919
Meets third Wednesday (Nov.-Apr. only) at 7:00 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
President: David J. Tooley
11375 Nawa Way
San Diego, CA 92129-1116
858-672-2593
djsj21643@aol.com
Meets fourth Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
Contact: Gary Colby
11375 Alberns
San Diego, CA 92126
858-566-0503
Meets first Saturday (Sept.-May) at 10:00 a.m., Quail Botanical Gardens

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
President: Mildred V. Mikas
P. O. Box 126127
San Diego, CA 92112-6127
858-485-5414
www.epiphyllum.com
Meets second Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY
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1418 Park Row
La Jolla, CA 92037-3710
619-464-2609
Meets third Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS
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P. O. Box 152943
San Diego, CA 92195
619-697-4417
Meets fourth Wednesday
7:00 pm, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

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SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
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6404 Zena Dr.
San Diego, CA 92115-7026
619-447-8243
www.sdgeranium.org
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Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

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Cindi Lohry
619-579-0222
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Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

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SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY
President: Edith Schade
760-788-1376
Meets second Sunday at 1:00 p.m.
Please call for newsletter and meeting location

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY
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4512 Sunnyslope Ave.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423-3119
818-986-4188
Meets first Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,
Canoga Park Women's Club, 7401
Jordan, Canoga Park, CA

NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Carolyn Martus
P. O. Box 121390
San Diego, CA 92112-1390
760-434-5033
http://cnpssd.org
Meets third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.,
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
President: Yolanda Fleet
3045 Felicia Rd.
Escondido, CA 92029-6725
760-745-1219
http://lhnpc.org
Meets fourth Monday at 2:00 p.m.,
Rancho Bernardo Library, 2nd Floor

ORCHID

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY A BRANCH OF THE CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
President: Phyllis Prestia
3849 Via Del Rancho
Oceanside, CA 92056
760-732-0055
Meets third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.,
Carlsbad Women's Club

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
President: David Brown
4029 Georgia Street
San Diego, CA 92103
619-294-5925
posiedon_djb@juno.com
Meets first Tuesday 7:30 p.m.,
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

ORGANIC

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB
President: Jane Campbell
4375 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA
619-741-8448
kreepyhollow@gmail.com
Meets fourth Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

PLUMERIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY
President: Roland Dubuc
760-731-6188
www.
southerncaliforniaplumeriasociety.com
ibinterntl@aol.com
Meets second Sunday 1:00-3:00 p. m.
in Feb. March, May, June, July, Aug.
War Memorial Bldg. 3325 Zoo Drive

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
President: Roger English
2007 Muira Lane
El Cajon, CA 92109
619-443-4795
Meets first Sunday
(Except Jul and Aug.) at 2:00 p.m.,
Gardens of Members

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
President: Roger English
6705 Maury Dr.
San Diego, CA 92119-2020
619-462-5753
Meets third Monday
(Mar.–Jun., Sept.–Dec.) at 7:30 p.m.,
Casa del Prado
Meets fourth Monday (Jan. and Feb.) at
7:30 p.m., Casa del Prado

WATER GARDEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY
President: Ed Simpson
1302 Avocado Rd.
Oceanside, CA 92054-5702
760-436-3704
dc@pondplants.com
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/
sdwatergarden
Meets third Sunday (Apr.–Oct.)

Send changes to Affiliates Editor, *California Garden*,
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Email: *membership@sdfloral.org*
May/June issue: March 10, 2009.
Each affiliate group is entitled to a business-cardsized ad at half price. We can accept your designed ad (TIFF, JPEG or PDF files preferred).

In Season

Curious about what spring brings to local farmer's markets? Here are just some of the items that you may find being sold from the stalls in March and April. (For more information about San Diego County Certified Farmer's Markets—and to find out the date and location of the market nearest you—please visit *www.sdfarmbureau.org*.)

March: Artichokes, asparagus, avocados, carrots, cherimoyas, grapefruit, guavas, lemons, oranges (Navel), peas, rhubarb, squash, strawberries, tangelos, various cut flowers and potted plants.

April: Avocados, beans, beets, carrots, cherimoyas, grapefruit, lemons, oranges (Navel and Valencia), radishes, snap peas, squash, strawberries, turnips, various cut flowers and potted plants.

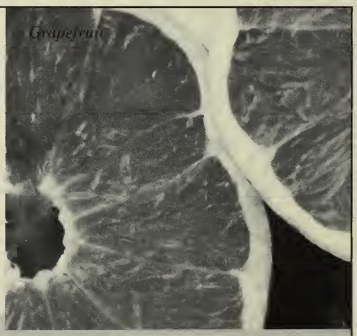
Grapefruit

PHOTO: RACHEL COBB

Contact Us!

Do you have an event, class or meeting that you'd like to let *California Garden* readers know about? If so, please email *calendar@sdfloral.org* or *sdfloral@gmail.com* with your group's name, the meeting date and time, meeting place, any applicable fees, event program and contact information. You may also submit the above information via regular mail, sent to Calendar Editor, San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado Room 105, San Diego CA 92101. Space is limited, so please get in touch today to ensure inclusion! The deadline for the upcoming May/June 2009 issue is March 10, 2009; the deadline for the Jul/Aug 2009 issue is May 10, 2009.

Flower shows were a big activity in communities before entertainment from television and iPods distracted people from one another. They spoke to our agricultural and horticultural roots and the desire to grow beautiful things even better. Early San Diegans were fine gardeners and loved to show off their skill.—Lucy Warren

September 1927
Rare Floral Beauties Seen At Exhibition

A riot of color against background of occasional soft green bowers of leafy plants, and here and there a nook redolent with flower perfumes and the cool, moist earth odors of a shaded garden, are some of the impressions that are made upon visitors at the fall flower show of the San Diego Floral Association, which opened yesterday afternoon in Balboa Park.

There are brilliant arrays of individual blossoms, the finest specimens from family gardens. And there are specially arranged baskets raised by other amateurs. The professional floriculturists of the city and county have arranged beautiful mass exhibits of their prize products without placing them in competition with the amateur-grown flowers.

Brilliance Everywhere

As is always the case with the fall flowers, brilliant coloring predominates, though there are many varieties with softly-tinted blossoms of variegated hues. Almost any shade of any color can be found somewhere in the show, though the great masses of the flowers give an impression of flaming brilliance in shades of red, gold and orange.

The great numbers of flowers, of course, were the brilliant dahlias, gladioluses and zinnias, which ranged through all the tints of the rainbow and from an inch in diameter to from 10 to 14 inches in diameter for the biggest dahlias. It is these gorgeous blooms that are given the greatest amount of space and attention and the feature of the show is the large number of new varieties and variegations that had been developed on the older and smaller varieties.

One corner of the display rooms is developed by the naval training station, which has created an old garden wall and gate, backing it with shrubbery and bamboo leaves, and displaying the flowers about the gate in simulation of natural growth. An opposite corner is similarly developed by the city park department with some beautiful specimens of the various flowers grown in Balboa Park, but with the emphasis on the natural outdoor treatment with shrubs, vines and ferns. Other group displays make attractive nooks out of odd corners and alcoves.

Begonias Attractive

Several exhibitors are showing what can be done with the native flowers and shrubs to be found growing wild in the county. The dainty mimulus or monkey-plant, is in evidence as one of the most successfully cultivated wild flowers.

There are several elaborate and interesting begonia exhibits, some specializing in odd and exotic leaf forms, and others in the

blossom variegations. There are begonias in pots, begonias in long boxes, begonias in hanging baskets, common varieties and rare ones, exotic colors and color combinations, and a wide variety of forms.

The commercial exhibit by Alfred D. Robinson is one of the most interesting of these. It is housed in a demonstration portable lath house as an indication of the amount of protection needed for the growing of begonias in San Diego, where they thrive if given the sketchiest kind of care. In this exhibit are the rarest of the flowering varieties, some of them said to be specimens as fine as can be found anywhere in the world. They bear the tongue-twisting names of 'Tydea,' 'Tovernia Fournieri,' 'Narvissiflora,' 'Achimines.' and other names which do not begin to tell the story of their delicate beauty and their ravishing coloration.

Flowers of Perfume

A white gardenia or cape jasmine just in back of the Robinson exhibit fills the air with its heavy sweetness. The perfume flowers, however, are in the minority, and the pleasant odors that pervade the show space are the indeterminate but comfortable earthy smells that fill the corner of a moist garden.

Two of the finest commercial exhibits are those set up by W. H. Oliver of Claremont, and Thomas F. McLoughlin of Encinitas. The latter has a large number of giant dahlias that he has developed and named himself, including the Charles A. Lindbergh, a lovely blossom in golden pink shades.

Judges who officiated at the flower show are Frank Shearer, superintendent of city parks; James McGilvray, conservatory superintendent, Lincoln Park, Los Angeles; Lowell Swisher, Jr., amateur authority on dahlias.

The judges started inspecting and grading the exhibits as soon as they were in place yesterday noon, while the flowers were in the best possible shape. The show will be open all today for those who want to see what San Diego County can do in the raising of flowers.

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- **April 19th** Photo Workshop
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